

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, July 12, 1990

Published Since 1877

"Get ready for 1991, not 1951"

By Mark Wingfield

WASHINGTON (BP) — Churches must wake up to the fact that next year will be 1991 and not 1951, Lyle Schaller told a group of Southern Baptist ministers.

Schaller, a church growth authority and parish consultant with the Yokefellow Institute in Richmond, Ind., spoke to about 250 people attending a Models for Metropolitan Ministry conference. The event was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the six Southern Baptist seminaries, and state conventions and metropolitan associations in the Northeast.

"There seems to be a growing amount of evidence that next year is going to be 1991," Schaller quipped, then added in a serious voice, "If that's true, we've got problems."

"If it were going to be 1951, we might know what to do."

Schaller lamented that most churches are stuck in a time warp that causes them to be 30 years behind current trends. To continue to survive and grow, churches must stop planning to do in 1991 the same things that were effective in 1951, he said.

He discussed four trends that churches must face: a changing world, mega-churches, para-church organizations and competition. "The

religious scene, especially in urban America, is changing rapidly," Schaller said. Classifying religions as Catholic, Protestant and Jewish no longer is sufficient, he explained, noting that almost as many Muslims worship in the United States each week as do Methodists.

More importantly, for the first time in 1,200 years, a new religion is rising to worldwide prominence, Schaller said: "We are seeing the emergence of a new, large, rapidly growing religion on a worldwide basis. The last time this happened was 1,200 years ago with the emergence of Islam. Now it is happening again with the Mormons."

He commended Southern Baptists for being the only religious body taking this event seriously. "Fifty, 75, or 100 years from now, it will be seen that the Southern Baptist Convention was the first religious body on this continent to take seriously the emergence of a new religion," he predicted.

A second issue to be faced in the 1990s is the emergence of the mega-church, Schaller said, adding that this especially is true for Southern Baptists.

"The number of big Southern Baptist churches has quadrupled in the past 30 years," he explained. "Among

the long-established, larger Protestant denominations, Southern Baptists are the only one to have such an increase."

The increase in mega-churches has been accompanied by an increase in the number of churches averaging 800 or more in worship attendance.

"The emergence of the mega-church is one of the six most important things that has happened in my lifetime," said Schaller, who is 67. "It is a whole new phenomenon in American church history."

Currently, one of every 250 Protestant churches in America averages at least 800 in Sunday worship, he said. By comparison, one of every 200 Southern Baptist churches is that large.

Yet another issue to be faced in the 1990s, Schaller said, is the continued influence of para-church organizations.

He traced the emergence of para-church groups from the 1960s, noting that most were created to meet a "perceived vacuum" in denominational programming. The independent, interdenominational organizations have grown to be more influential in some areas than denominational programs, he said.

"If I were a Southern Baptist, I

would raise this question: When and how do the para-church organizations influence what happens in the Southern Baptist Convention," Schaller said, but added few people ask such questions. "No one in the Southern Baptist Convention discusses this," he said.

While the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union is not a para-church organization, it came into being the same way, he said. "WMU came into existence out of a perception of a vacuum" in missions education.

In the 1990s, the Southern Baptist Alliance is one organization that has been created out of another perceived vacuum, Schaller said. The denomination will have to decide whether organizations like the Alliance — created as a result of 11 years of denominational fighting — are para-church organizations or something else, he said.

Another trend for the 1990s is that churches must compete more for attention, Schaller said. "In some ways, the most significant pattern in metropolitan missions is competition." He said this is not a new word for churches but is one that can now be spoken out loud. "We have people who are 25, 35, 45 years old who, when

they get up on Sunday morning, feel they have a right to choose whatever church they want to go to."

This lack of institutional and church loyalty "is disturbing to people of my generation," Schaller said.

Pastors can no longer count on a high level of denominational or church loyalty to fill their pews on Sundays, Schaller warned. Instead, the churches that attract people are the churches that distinguish themselves in some way.

This is another reason the mega-churches have been successful, Schaller said. "What they have done is made church interesting. Today, folks want worship to be interesting."

Television has influenced this trend more than anything, he said.

"Television has radically changed the public discourse. Television has said it's up to whoever is talking to grab your attention. We used to think it was your responsibility to stay awake and listen," Schaller said.

This trend affects both rural and metropolitan churches, he explained. "In western Kansas, you're not in rural America. In northern Mississippi, you're not in rural America. Regardless of where you are, you're not in rural America; you're in television land."

Wingfield writes for HMB

VA chaplain helps addicts restore faith in God

By Mark Wingfield

DUBLIN, Ga. — When addiction steals the faith of veterans, Chaplain Tim Brown extends a hand to draw them back to God. Brown, a chaplain at the Veterans Administration hospital in Dublin, Ga., is a Southern Baptist endorsed by the denomination's Chaplains Commission.

Brown specializes in treating patients with addictions to alcohol and drugs. As chaplain he is part of a four-member team assigned to every patient who checks into the VA hospital for a 28-day treatment program.

"Because of addiction, the person begins to lose everything that's important in his life," Brown explains. "Spirituality is the first thing to go."

In his initial spirituality survey, Brown asks patients what spirituality means to them and what role it plays in their addiction and treatment. Most patients at the central Georgia hospital answer that if they trust God, he will help them overcome their problems. That answer reflects the religious upbringing most of the Bible Belt patients have experienced, Brown says. About 90 percent of all the hospital's patients are from evangelical Protestant backgrounds. More than half identify themselves as Baptists.

However, the damage of addiction is illustrated by another question on the survey, which asks how often the patient currently attends church.

Most classify their attendance somewhere between never and seldom, he reports. Because of their addiction, the patients have usually become shut out by the church, Brown says. "They feel condemned by society. There is a misconception that the church is being judgmental of them. I usually tell them: 'It's not that people have negative feelings toward you, personally, but toward your addiction; and up to this point, your addiction has had control of your life.'"

"You are a person of worth..."

Brown assures each patient, "You are a person of worth, and you can grow beyond this addiction." He bridges the gap between the church and the person who feels rejected by the church.

"As a representative of the church, I'm able to get the message of the church to people at a time when they need to hear it most," Brown explains. "I feel like the church has a responsibility to these people as a mission. Without a chaplain here, there would be a vacuum in their overall treatment program. Their chances of recovering would be diminished greatly."

Brown believes a patient's recovery

is directly related to his spiritual growth. So without forcing a religion on patients, he encourages them to grow in honesty, purity, unselfishness and love.

"We give patients a chance to look at their spiritual values in a non-judgmental environment," he says. "Most come to a better understanding of their faith and commitment to it."

One such patient is Billy Morgan, who successfully completed the VA's treatment program for alcoholism and is now artist-in-residence at the hospital.

Morgan served in both the Army and the Navy, with a tour of duty in Vietnam. After returning to Georgia from military service, he began a successful career as a painter. Some of his rural scenes hung in the White House during the Carter presidency. But by the time Morgan was struck with a heart attack in 1985, he had hit bottom — emotionally and spiritually. "I was like the prodigal son," he says. "I had wandered off."

After recovering from the heart attack, Morgan entered the addiction treatment program, where he met Brown.

"Chaplains are important for people like me who have strayed," Morgan says. "The reverends can come and pull them back to God. I just had to come back and grab God's hand again. I know I'm a Christian

now. There's something between God and me. It's a power greater than life."

Through his search for spirituality, Morgan said he was humbled to realize his dependence upon God. He believes he might have come to that point on his own with time, but was

helped along the way by Brown.

"You have to have someone to help you," he says, comparing the chaplain's role to that of a carpenter training an apprentice. "The chaplain will listen and help you."

Wingfield writes for FMB.



Chaplain Tim Brown (right) stands with Billy Morgan in front of a painting Morgan did for the Veterans Administration hospital in Dublin, Ga. Morgan, whose works have hung in the White House, encountered Brown through the hospital's addiction treatment program. Through the program, Brown helped the artist renew his faith in God. "I just had to come back and grab God's hand again," Morgan said. (Photo by Mark Wingfield)

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Shackleford and Martin are told to resign at BP

NASHVILLE (BP) — Al Shackleford and Dan Martin have been told to resign as director and news editor of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The six officers of the SBC Executive Committee instructed Harold C. Bennett, president of the Executive Committee, to tell Shackleford and Martin to either resign or they would be "dealt with harshly."

On June 19, Bennett conveyed the message to Shackleford and Martin. They were told if they resigned quietly, they would be continued on the payroll through the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30, but would neither attend nor report on the Sept. 17-19 meeting of the Executive Committee.

Shackleford and Martin also were offered "up to six months" salary and benefits after September if they were unemployed, but only on the condition they kept silent and no state Baptist editor came to their defense.

By late June, neither Shackleford nor Martin had responded to the request.

The future of Baptist Press is unclear, since Shackleford and Martin are the only professional staff members producing the news service. The third member of the professional staff, Marv Knox, resigned June 1 to become editor of the Western Recorder, newsjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The six officers gave Bennett the instructions during a special called meeting at 3 p.m., Wednesday, June 13, just prior to the annual organizational meeting of the Executive Com-

mittee, at 4 p.m. in the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans, site of the 1990 annual meeting of the SBC.

During the organizational meeting, three of the officers were re-elected to second terms. They are Chairman Sam Pace, director of associational missions in Lawton, Okla.; Vice Chairman Paul Pressler, a state appeals court judge from Houston; and Secretary Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church in Mobile, Ala.

The other three officers are appointed to chair the three subcommittees of the Executive Committee by the elected officers. They are Charles Sullivan, pastor of First Church, Lenoir City, Tenn., administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee; David Hankins, pastor of Trinity Church, Lake Charles, La., business and finance subcommittee; and William F. Harrell, pastor of Abilene Church, Martinez, Ga., program and budget subcommittee.

Under Executive Committee bylaws, the officers as a body have no stated authority to elect or dismiss staff members of the Executive Committee.

Baptist Press, which has received high marks from secular and denominational journalists for its objectivity, balance, and fairness in the midst of the theological/political turmoil of the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination, has been under increasing fire from the new Conservative majority.

The officers' instructions to Bennett came one day after Conservatives won their 12th victory by electing

Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, as president. Chapman decisively defeated Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta, the Moderate standard bearer.

Baptist Press, which was founded in 1947 at the request of the editors of the state Baptist newspapers, has been housed at the Executive Committee since its inception in an effort to protect it from efforts to muzzle, silence, or control the news.

Currently, it carries more than 1,200 news and feature stories about the events, personalities, agencies, and work of the SBC. It circulates daily to more than 400 outlets, including 38 state Baptist newspapers with a combined circulation of 1.8-million, as well as to all members of the Religion Newswriters Association, composed of religion specialists on newspapers, magazines, and broadcast media.

Shackleford and Martin each has more than 30 years of journalism experience.

Shackleford, 58, was elected vice president of public relations and director of Baptist Press in February 1987 on a 32-26 vote.

Previously, he was editor of the Baptist and Reflector, newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; the Indiana Baptist, newsjournal of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana; and on the staffs of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

He is a native of Carrollton, Ga., (Continued on page 10)

Baptist editors affirm Baptists' right to know

By Marv Knox

IRVING, Texas — Southern Baptist newspaper editors have affirmed Baptists' "right to know" and supported Baptist Press staff members Alvin C. Shackleford and Dan Martin.

The Southern Baptist Press Association, comprised of the editors of the convention's 38 state newsjournals, took the actions during a called meeting July 6-7 in Irving, Texas.

Their meeting followed recent demands for the resignations of Baptist Press Director Shackleford and News Editor Martin. The demands were made by the officers of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, which houses the central office of Baptist Press, the convention's news service.

The statement on Baptists' right to know emphasized the editors' belief in that principle and listed four affirmations regarding its protection.

The resolution on Baptist Press expressed concern with the move to "suppress a free religious press," commended Shackleford and Martin and urged the Executive Committee to give the duo a "fair and open forum

for a discussion of any charges against them."

Editors said they took separate actions because the possible firings of Shackleford and Martin demanded immediate, specific response; and the affirmation of Baptists' right to know represents a larger concern, which should be addressed at this point in the convention's history.

The right-to-know statement was adopted unanimously. Its preamble states: "Based on biblical and historic Baptist principles, we, the members of the Southern Baptist Press Association, believe in the right of and need for Baptists to have full, free access to the news and information of their denomination. We believe in the vital role Baptist Press fulfills in securing that right."

Those beliefs lead to the four affirmations, the statement notes. They are:

— "We affirm our desire to continue the partnership with Baptist Press news service, which has served Southern Baptists well since 1946. We also express our strong desire for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee to recognize this partnership by seeking ongoing input to the operation of Baptist Press from the Southern Baptist Press Association, the members of which are the primary users of this news service."

— "We affirm the Operating Guidelines for Baptist Press, adopted by the SBC Executive Committee in 1986. We call upon the Executive Committee to ensure that Baptist Press be operated according to these guidelines and base all evaluation of Baptist Press employees upon these guidelines."

— "We affirm our commitment to enhance the six-year-old networking system of sharing news among the 38 Southern Baptist newsjournals. This includes having a representative of the Southern Baptist Press Association present for meetings of Southern Baptist Convention entities. It also includes covering and sharing news of national interest in our areas."

— "We pledge to Southern Baptists to work for the full, free flow of (Continued on page 4)

Youth Night: July 27

Youth Night '90 will take place at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson on Friday, July 27.

The program begins at 7 p.m., preceded by pre-program activity at 6:40.

Jerry Johnston, author and youth speaker will be the conference speaker. Actor Doug Berkley will perform. And the musical group Truth will present a concert.

Youth Night is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and is free to high school or college students and their sponsors.

Clarification statement on Baptist Press

In the wake of the announcement by officers of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee that the employment of Baptist Press staff members Al Shackleford and Dan Martin could be terminated, several statements from people involved have been made known.

Shackleford is vice-president for public relations for the Executive Committee and thus director of Baptist Press. Martin is news director for Baptist Press. Martin has held his post for 10 years. Shackleford left the editorship of the Baptist and Reflector of Tennessee to assume his post just over three years ago.

J. B. Fowler, a former Mississippi pastor and now editor of the Baptist New Mexican, is president of the Southern Baptist Press Association, the organization of Baptist state paper editors. He issued the following statement:

"Al Shackleford and Dan Martin have bent over backwards to be fair in reporting Baptist news. Not more than two years ago the SBC Executive

Committee went on record that Baptist Press is as fair and balanced as is humanly possible. The six officers of the SBC Executive Committee have no authority to fire anyone, therefore they instructed Executive Committee President-Treasurer Harold C. Bennett to ask for the resignations. It is a sad day in Southern Baptist life when the officers of the Executive Committee use this kind of raw power and Southern Baptists tolerate it.

Shackleford, who has spent 30 years in Southern Baptist journalism as has Martin, said:

"In reality, action by the officers of the Executive Committee is not just to control the director of Baptist Press nor even Baptist Press itself, but rather an attempt to control the right and responsibility of Baptist church members to know what is happening in their denomination. This is a violation of a treasured Baptist principle, and I believe that Baptists have the right to know that these officers do not trust them (Baptists) with the

truth and are seeking to deprive them of their access to a fair, objective, and balanced news service."

Finally there was a statement from David Maddox, a layman from Fullerton, Calif., who served two terms as chairman of the Executive Committee, ending three years ago. He was chairman when Shackleford was elected by a vote of 32 to 26. He said:

"I am amazed that the officers would do this: first, because dismissals have not been a part of the conservatives groups, plans; second, because I have read that the new SBC president, Morris Chapman, in a press conference following his election, stated that he was satisfied with Baptist Press; and third, my experience on the Executive Committee would lead me to believe that the officers do not have the power to dismiss or to offer a severance package to induce the resignations of any staff people."

"We all need to pray very earnestly for Al Shackleford and Dan Martin,

the Executive Committee, for Dr. Bennett, and for our president, Dr. Morris Chapman, as all Southern Baptists anticipate the enlargement — the 'broadening' — of the tent."

A called meeting of the Executive Committee has been set for July 17 beginning at 10 a.m. The meeting is expected to adjourn at about 1 p.m. A meeting of the Executive Committee's Administrative and Convention Arrangements subcommittee will begin at 8 a.m.

The stated purpose of the meeting is "to consider the termination of the employment of Vice-President for Public Relations Alvin C. Shackleford and News Editor Dan Martin and any other item of business which may properly come before the Executive Committee."

A letter announcing the called meeting went out over the signature of Harold C. Bennett, president of the Executive Committee. Sam Pace, the chairman of the committee, called the meeting.

State gifts leap ahead of budget

Cooperative Program giving by Mississippi Baptist churches during June totaled \$1.5 million. This takes the six month total of unified budget giving to \$10.3 million, according to an announcement by Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Giving for January through June of 1990 totaled \$10,329,034. This is an increase of \$833,286 more than that given during the same period of 1989.

The pro rata budget, which is the total 1990 budget of \$19,581,130 divided into 12-month increments, would be \$9,790,565 for the first six months of the year. This means that Mississippi Baptist church giving is \$538,469 (or 5.50 percent) ahead of the budget.

The Cooperative Program is a voluntary system of giving where churches send a percentage of their offerings through state convention offices to Southern Baptist causes worldwide.

Committee issues response to Baptist Press story

The following statement was made by Sam W. Pace, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. It was issued in response to the Baptist Press story on Page 3 concerning the termination of Baptist Press staffers Al Shackleford, director, and Dan Martin, news director. As noted in the Baptist Press story, the other officers of the Executive Committee are Paul Pressler, vice-chairman, and Fred Wolfe, secretary. Subcommittee chairmen also join the officers group. Those chairmen are Charles Sullivan, administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee; David Hankins, business and finance subcommittee; and William Harrell, program and budget subcommittee. Readers will notice a change of style in the final paragraph. — Editor

By Sam Pace

The three officers of the Executive Committee and the chairmen of the three subcommittees met with Dr. Harold Bennett on June 13 at 3 p.m. in an effort to avoid a very unpleasant confrontation in the plenary session scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. Reliable information indicated that the matter of Baptist Press and the two principal personalities employed there was to be brought to the floor of the meeting and that the services of Dan Martin and Alvin C. Shackleford were going to be requested to be terminated. The officers, anticipating that such an action would pass by a strong majority,

felt that the situation and the denomination would be much better served by handling this quietly and graciously through the good offices and regular channels of the president of the Executive Committee. After prayerful and serious discussion, Dr. Bennett agreed to facilitate the suggestions of the officers in the most loving and considerate manner possible. In view of a prospective reorganization of the Executive Committee staff, it was deemed an appropriate time to make these major changes.

The officers of the Executive Committee deeply regret the unfortunate, ill-timed, and inaccurate press release written and released by Alvin C. Shackleford and Dan Martin on their own behalf. They also regret the breakdown of confidentiality agreed upon with Dr. Bennett in the handling of the situation, as well as the lack of objective journalistic ethics demonstrated in the writing of the Baptist Press release of June 26 by the very men about whom it was being written.

The fact is that Dan Martin specifically requested by telephone and in person that the chairman of the Executive Committee provide for him an honest appraisal of the opinions of Executive Committee members concerning his continued employment with them at this time. Martin did this two weeks prior to the convention and again during the New Orleans meeting.

Following the defeat of a motion to

delay the matter of his employment by a 29-29 tie vote, Alvin C. Shackleford was approved by a narrow majority to be vice-president for public relations of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. He then requested that the Executive Committee give him a year to prove he would be fair, equitable, and balanced with Baptist Press. After more than three years, the ever-increasing perception of the vast majority of Executive Committee members is that the very opposite has proven to be true.

Knowing the strong sentiments of the majority of the Executive Committee members, the six officers sought a course of action that would better serve the cause of peace and fairness for the denomination had that course of action been allowed to take its designed direction.

Bennett stated that in talking with Shackleford and Martin, he did not use the terms "instructed" or "instructions" in reviewing his conversation with the Executive Committee officers on June 13, 1990. In addition, he did not state that the staff members would be "dealt with harshly" if they did not resign. He told them of the possible six months salary and benefits provisions. Bennett also reports that the Executive Committee officers felt they should not penalize either Shackleford or Martin for what other people may say; but they hoped the two would not precipitate a conflict.

Church autonomy complicates efforts to insure ministers

When it comes to pastors' fringe benefits, such as medical insurance and retirement the Baptist genius is a weakness," said Thomas E. Miller Jr., senior vice president and director of public relations for the SBC Annuity Board.

"No where does our cherished congregational autonomy haunt us more than the way we take care of those we call to serve," Miller said. Each church can provide benefits as it chooses, and many provide none. Others make benefits part of a compensation package that forces the pastor to reduce his salary to pay premiums.

"We are frequently asked why such a large group cannot have better rates," Miller said. "The basic reason is that the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan is not a group plan. It is an 'association plan,' which means it is really individual insurance for more than 23,000 families.

"The only way to have group insurance in all our churches is to make it compulsory, something we obviously cannot do," he said.

The Annuity Board does offer group policies, but only large churches and agencies can qualify.

"Many healthy people have sought less expensive insurance while those with large claims stay with the (church comprehensive) plan," Miller explained. This creates a spiral of rising claims which requires a rise in premiums. It is a vicious cycle."

Miller noted that most mainline denominations require churches to provide insurance and retirement benefits

as a condition for membership. That permits implementation of a true group plan. "I am not suggesting that we elect a Baptist bishop to protect the pastor," he said, "but we ought to conduct the church's business with integrity.

"Over and over we hear pastors say, 'My church simply can't afford to pay the premium.' So far I haven't heard of any who say, 'We just can't afford to pay the light bill any longer. We'll have to either turn off the electricity or let the pastor pay for it out of his package,'" said Miller.

"If we believe God's Word, that 'the laborer is worth his hire,' Miller continued, "it is time to provide adequately for the ones we call or hire to work for us."

The answer, said Miller, is two-part. "First, don't give the pastor a choice. Make participation in the Church Annuity Plan and insurance plans a condition of call. Second, show cash salary and housing as separate line items in the budget and be sure they are adequate for proper family support.

"We are aware that a great number of our pastors cannot afford our medical plan or any other good comprehensive plan. Our position is that the pastor should not have to afford it. The church should view medical insurance as a cost of church operation, not a part of salary.

"If a congregation truly cannot afford to maintain itself," Miller concluded, "then it should honestly examine the alternatives of bivocational ministry, a multi-church field, church merger or disbanding."

Corley to be nominated dean at Southwestern

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Bruce Corley, associate professor of New Testament at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas will be nominated to become dean of the seminary's school of theology when trustees meet Oct. 15-16.

Seminary President Russell Dilday made the announcement in a letter to

trustees June 14. In the letter, Dilday said the nomination comes along with "the strong, almost unanimous recommendations from the faculty."

Corley, 47, has taught at Southwestern since 1976. If elected by the trustees he will succeed William Tolar who was elected vice president for academic affairs and provost at

the March board meeting.

Tolar is replacing John Newport, who is retiring.

Dilday described Corley as one of Southwestern's "best scholars, one of our most gifted leaders, and one of our most popular preachers."

Corley taught at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, before joining the seminary faculty.

Editors affirm "right to know"

(Continued from page 3)

responsible, balanced, accurate information about Baptist witness and ministries in our respective states and the Southern Baptist Convention."

The resolution of Baptist Press, adopted with one dissenting vote, was passed less than two weeks before a July 17 called Executive Committee meeting to discuss the fate of Al Shackleford and Dan Martin.

Committee Chairman Sam Pace, a director of associational missions from Lawton, Okla., called the meeting "to consider the termination of the employment" of the two journalists, according to an announcement by committee President Harold C. Bennett.

The editors' resolution states, "Unrestricted access to news and information, provided in an objective and balanced manner, is essential in maintaining the health and vitality of any organization, including the Southern Baptist Convention . . .

"Baptist Press has ably and consistently provided such information for Baptist state papers, as well as other media outlets, since its inception in 1946 . . . (Shackleford and Martin) have continued this tradition of professional service with exceptional skill and commitment to Southern Baptists throughout the world and the larger Christian community."

The resolution notes that the editors "express their heartfelt appreciation for the quality service rendered by Baptist Press for the fair and equitable manner in which it has reported events in the SBC during the past 12 years" of convention controversy.

"The editors record their profound disappointment and grave concern with the attempt by certain members of the SBC Executive Committee to suppress a free religious press and restrict the flow of indispensable information to Southern Baptists around the world."

The press association "wholeheartedly commends Mr. Shackleford and Mr. Martin for the excellence of their respective ministries; and . . . expresses grave concern with publicly announced plans to remove Mr.

Shackleford and Mr. Martin from their key positions of responsibility; and calls upon the SBC Executive Committee to provide Mr. Shackleford and Mr. Martin a fair and open forum for a discussion of any and all charges against them, with full opportunity for response."

The lone dissent to the resolution was made by Tammi Ledbetter, managing editor of the *Indiana Baptist*.

She later told her colleagues; "While there is much in this statement that I endorse, I cannot in good conscience affirm every element of this resolution . . .

"I am of the opinion that there have been failures on the part of Baptist Press in the reporting of our denomination. This resolution fails to acknowledge any problem. Furthermore, I believe it is to be not only the prerogative, but the stated responsibility of the Executive Committee to address such matters and deal with them."

The editors' called meeting was moved up because of the recent crisis at Baptist Press, said press association President J. B. Fowler, editor of the *Baptist New Mexican*.

"The SBPA had originally intended to meet in September to further develop our networking system, which has been in operation for the past six years," he said. "But when the future of BP became uncertain, this meeting was called."

"It was called to ensure that the SBPA has a free flow of information to share with the people in the pews."

The meeting was called after Shackleford and Martin had been told to resign but before the July 17 Executive Committee meeting had been called. Editors from 22 state papers attended.

The editors also named a committee to "work out options" for sharing news stories among themselves. They are editors James Watters of the Northwest, Quentin Lockwood Jr. of New York and Fletcher Allen of Tennessee, and associate editors Toby Druin of Texas and Greg Warner of Florida.

Marv Knox is editor of the *Western Recorder* in Kentucky.

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Shackleford, Martin decline second invitation to resign

By Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE — Baptist Press representatives Al Shackleford and Dan Martin "have respectfully declined" a second invitation to resign their respective positions as director and news editor of Baptist Press.

Shackleford and Martin were both contacted July 7 by two officers of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee (Sam Pace and Charles Sullivan).

Pace and Sullivan restated a previous offer that if Shackleford and Martin would voluntarily resign from Baptist Press they would recommend a generous severance package and Pace, as chairman, would cancel the called meeting of the Executive Committee July 17.

The two officers requested the resignations, effective September 1, be on the desk of Harold Bennett, president of the Executive Committee, by July 9.

Pace and Sullivan, according to the statement released by Martin and Shackleford, said they were offering the same severance package as proposed earlier (six months salary and benefits) with the addition of the possibility of negotiating an extension based upon hardship.

In prepared statements, both Shackleford and Martin declined the proposal of July 9 following a conference call with the two officers. Also involved in the call was Frank C. Ingraham, Nashville attorney who is representing the two Baptist Press staffers.

Shackleford said, "I came to the position of vice-president for public relations because of two strong convictions: (1) that God had clearly revealed to me that it was his will that I accepted this position; and (2) that my God-called ministry to which I have given 35 years of my life is Baptists' right to a free flow of information."

"To resign would mean that I would turn my back on these two convictions."

Shackleford also noted in his statement that the issue "is not to control Baptist Press nor its director, but to control the right and responsibility of Baptist church members to know what is going on in their denomination."

"An indication of such control is the recent directive that Sam Pace's clarification statement was 'not to be edited in any fashion' and distributed through Baptist Press and establishing a new policy that no other news releases on this subject would be released through Baptist Press."

Shackleford noted Baptists have historically adhered to the principle of "freedom of conscience."

"We have trusted our Baptist church members with the right to discern truth and on the basis of that discernment, the ability to make proper decisions," he said.

Martin, in his statement, said he "listened carefully and prayerfully" to the latest offer from the Executive Committee officers.

"I heard them describe 'irreconcilable differences' between Executive Committee leaders and Baptist Press. I have waited for a legitimate effort at resolution and reconciliation of our differences."

"In an hour-long discussion with Sam Pace in May and again when he sought me out at the annual meeting in New Orleans, I indicated a willingness and a desire to resolve the conflict regarding Baptist Press."

"I was ready then and am ready

now to sit down with honorable men of good will and common sense to discuss the whole issue, including perceptions and even the possibility that I may not be news editor."

Martin noted that instead of working toward resolution of differences, he was presented with "instructions to resign or be fired."

"Rather than discussion and dialogue, I have a demand to leave. I had counted on the integrity and Christianity of the leaders of the Executive Committee to want to deal with the issues, not simply hand down a request that I resign or be fired."

Martin said he is committed to "a news service that is impartial, credible, trustworthy, and honors the right of individual Baptists to have the best information possible."

Both men said that because of their convictions and commitments to a free flow of information, they declined to offer their resignations.

Shackleford told the Baptist and Reflector, Tennessee state paper, that the July 9 conference call with Pace and Sullivan was beneficial and that it was conducted with a Christian spirit and attitude.

"Despite the fact it didn't resolve anything, it was a rewarding experience to discuss these serious matters in a caring forum," Shackleford said.

During the conference call, Ingraham restated to the officers his desire to "present some facts on the behalf of Shackleford and Martin that otherwise the Executive Committee would not have in order to make a fair determination."

Ingraham said Pace told him he would consider that request and get back to Ingraham.

The Nashville attorney also said Pace told him he was working with Eldredge Miller, and Executive Committee member from Oklahoma, on the wording of a statement and a motion of termination to be read during the July 17 called meeting of the Executive Committee.

Reached at his office at First Church, Lenoir City, on Monday, Charles Sullivan, chairman of the Executive Committee's Administrative and Convention Arrangements Subcommittee, made this statement:

"The current situation surrounding Baptist Press, Al Shackleford, and Dan Martin has evolved due to an effort on the part of the Executive Committee officers to live out inerrantly the word of God, when it says 'by this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.' Learning that a motion was forthcoming in the organizational meeting of the Executive Committee in New Orleans, to call for the immediate termination of the above two men, the officers attempted to demonstrate brotherly love by trying to derail that motion before its presentation and by agreeing with Dr. Harold Bennett that he should offer these men — not require them — the opportunity to resign, on Sept. 1, so as to avert a similar experience in the regular September Executive Committee meeting. It was also expressed to Dr. Bennett that there should be no charges placed against the men, the problem being a matter of perception in the presentation of news. If you have three people looking at a picture, each one will see something different. To ask conservative leaders to continue to accept 'a moderate-eyed' news coverage is like asking President Bush to accept the press secretary of

President Jimmy Carter.

"The officers of the Executive Committee are for a free press. The severance package that Dr. Bennett offered was in no way offered as a means for silencing the press. It was also clearly recognized by the officers that any interpretation that the 'press' desired could be made of the current situation."

"Baptist Press will continue to be a vital part of the Executive Committee. It will continue to provide Southern Baptists a full and complete picture of Baptist news."

"It is my opinion that the Executive Committee in its July 17 meeting will act in Christian love and fairness, but it will act resolutely."

Lonnie Wilkey is associate editor of The Baptist and Reflector.

Self resigns Wieuca Road

ATLANTA (BP) — William L. Self, pastor of Atlanta's Wieuca Road Church, announced June 17 he is resigning as pastor, effective Aug. 12.

Self's resignation came after several stressful months of conflict within the Wieuca Road congregation.

Local and national media reports suggested the conflict within the Southern Baptist Convention was a primary factor in Self's resignation, a suggestion rejected by both Self and Wieuca Road members. Self has been a prominent leader in the convention's moderate faction, and was defeated by Adrian Rogers in the election of SBC president in 1979. He had been second vice president of the convention in 1978.

Coming immediately after the overwhelming conservative victory at the 1990 SBC annual meeting in New Orleans, rumors connected Self's resignation to the denominational conflict. To counter that, the church released a statement June 21 denying "a fundamentalist takeover of the Wieuca congregation."

In resigning from the pastorate he has held 26 years, Self said "events of the last 18 months have been extremely stressful and detrimental to the health of my family and to my dearly beloved church family." He said two personal physicians suggested "a necessary lifestyle change," resulting in his resignation.

Sources within the congregation confirmed Self's report of a prolonged and stressful conflict over the future of Wieuca Road Church and its vision of ministry.

Free offer: 'On to College' bulletin inserts

The Department of Student Work of the MBCB is offering bulletin inserts to churches free of charge to promote the 1990 "On to College" emphasis. This is for graduating high school seniors who are entering college this fall.

The emphasis includes a suggested order of service for a Sunday in August. It also notes that Discipleship

Antioch Church, Bay Springs, will observe 150th year

Antioch Church, Bay Springs, will observe its 150th anniversary and homecoming on Saturday, July 14. Services will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a covered dish luncheon. Shepherds of

Love from Mize will bring special music in the 1:15 p.m. service. George Jackson, former pastor, will be the speaker. Carey E. Bass is pastor. Gene Laton is music director.

Former Record employee dies

Mrs. Eleanor Lowe Smith, 88, of 1318 Britt Avenue, Jackson, died of congestive heart failure June 27 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. For 21 years, 1943-1964, she was a secretary in the editorial department of the Baptist Record, working with editors A. L. Goodrich, W. C. Fields, and Joe T. Odle.

Services were held at 2 p.m. June 28 at Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home with burial in Lakewood Cemetery, Jackson. Ferrell Cork, Van Winkle pastor, and chairman of the Baptist Record advisory committee, officiated.

Mrs. Smith, a native of Laurel, had lived in Jackson since 1938. She was a member of Van Winkle Baptist Church. She was a graduate of Shady Grove High School. She was the widow of William Doss Smith, son of a Baptist pastor.

Survivors include one daughter, Daunie Jean Nettles of Jackson; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Charlotte Causey's mother dies

Mrs. Lottye Shaw Rose, 96, formerly of 550 Houston Ave., Jackson, died of pneumonia July 4 in Compere's Nursing Home. She was the mother of Charlotte Causey, wife of Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Services were held July 6 in the Breeland Funeral Home Chapel with burial in Oakwood Cemetery in Winona.

Mrs. Rose, a Grenada County native, moved from Winona to Jackson in 1960. She was a dormitory housemother at Belhaven College from 1960 until 1968.

Mrs. Rose was the widow of Tillman U. Rose. She was a member of Central Presbyterian Church, Jackson.

Survivors include one son, Tillman U. Rose Jr. of Jackson; daughters, Geneva Jenkins of Memphis and Charlotte Causey of Clinton; three sisters; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

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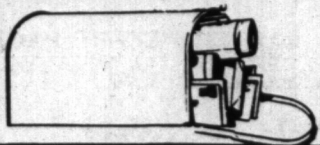
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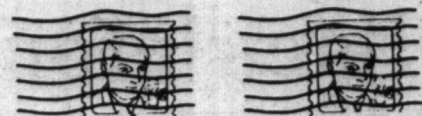
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Mississippi Baptist activities

July 15 *Women's Recognition Sunday (CAC Emphasis)
July 16-28 Simultaneous BBC/Mission VBS Emphasis (SS Emphasis)



Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Preaching the word requires humility

Editor:

Forced termination is a major problem in many Baptist churches, and tensions leading in that direction are very real in many others. Sometimes the primary factor is a misunderstanding of the role of pastor as preacher of the Word.

Some time ago in a pastors' conference the guest speaker, the pastor of a large and growing Baptist church, exhorted the men to "preach the Word." He said that any church will grow where this is done, and he was a prime example of it. He also shared that he has no problem about attendance on Sunday nights or Wednesday nights because he simply tells the people that if they are "saved" and love the Lord they will be present. There were many "amens" in the crowd. The issue seemed as clear as day: preachers who want to have successful ministries must boldly and fearlessly "preach the Word." It works for this famous pastor.

And yet many of those preachers might try that and only get themselves and their churches into deep trouble; because such a stance very often alienates the people and sets the pastor up as a dictator and ultimately, in his own eyes, as a martyr. One can preach the Word only if he knows the Word, and that knowledge is gained through a humility that is willing to learn and a deep respect for the opinions of others of God's family, including laymen. If a man can see only black and white and thinks that he is the true interpreter of the Word for everyone, he is in trouble.

Southern Baptists that I respect are those who are characterized by a commitment to the authoritative Word of God as interpreted by the Spirit of our Lord, a humility of spirit, a reverence for the living Lord Jesus as found in the lives of others, and a love which seeks to include as many as possible in the family rather than trying to shut them out. They are the ones who are best qualified to "preach the Word."

Wesley G. Ellis
Germantown, TN

Why Jesus chose Judas

Editor:

Subject: article in the Baptist Record, June 7 under "Baptist Beliefs..." entitled "Why Judas betrayed Jesus," by Dr. Herschel Hobbs — a very good article.

Hobbs is always very helpful to us in his interpretation of Scripture.

May I add this thought: "Why Jesus chose Judas..." Some say Jesus did not know that Judas would betray him, but Jesus did know from the beginning who would betray him. (John 6:64-John 13:11).

Another reason Jesus chose Judas is a fulfillment of Scripture — Prophecy (John 13:18). The scripture in the Old Testament is Psalm 41:9. It is alarming to know the number of Bible students confused over the truth concerning Judas.

D. L. Callender
McComb

Missionaries need prayer

Editor:

Many people do not think they know how to pray for home and foreign missionaries, but it is not as difficult as they might think.

Bill Wilson, at Overseas Missionary Fellowship, wrote a pamphlet on "Praying for Your Missionary." Here are some helpful hints from Wilson's pamphlet which you can follow as you kneel in prayer for home and foreign missionaries. Pray for:

- the missionary's own relationship to God
- the missionary's physical and emotional wellbeing
- the missionary's ministry
- the missionary's family
- the missionary's ability to communicate
- the missionary's workers, and
- the people who are, that their hearts and minds will open to God's Word.

People tend to put missionaries on pedestals and think they have "what it takes" and do not need additional prayers. Wrong!!! Missionaries need all the prayer support they can get. I make that statement because I am serving as a summer missionary in Mendo Lake, Calif. I have enlisted five very reliable people to pray for me everyday this summer while I am serving in California. The Baptist Student Union at my school, Mississippi State University, has made this missionary trip possible.

As I am preparing to leave for the summer, I think of you, the readers of the Baptist Record. Through your prayers, miracles can happen and lives can be touched. Missionaries around the world and here in the states desperately need your prayer support.

As Christians it is our duty to pray, but most importantly it is an honor which cannot be ignored. It has often been said, "Prayer can move mountains." I believe this saying to be true. So let us all move some mountains!

Lesley Vance
Raymond

Objects to ad

Editor:

In the Baptist Record dated May 24, 1990, I would like to call your attention to one of the advertisements on Page 9.

The owner of Pep's Point in Hattiesburg is to be commended for trying to provide a nice place for wholesome family entertainment. We truly understand today that they are in competition with places that I would not take my family or approve of my teenagers going.

I was taught, and according to the Bible, that on Sunday, church was the place to be, not Pep's Point. The advertisement would have you to believe that Pep's Point is the place to be on Sunday from 9-6. I find this to be in contradiction to what we as Christians believe. I do not believe that the Baptist Record should have an advertisement that would encourage people to do the opposite of what God's Word teaches.

Davis Berryhill
Magnolia

The Cafe du Monde celebration

Editor:

On Wednesday, June 13, at approximately 10:30 p.m. at the Cafe du Monde in New Orleans' French Quarter, I witnessed by accident the presentation of plaques to commemorate a strategy meeting between Paige Patterson and Paul Pressler there 20 years earlier. Mr. Patterson and Mr. Pressler were autographing engraved invitations to this presentation.

A jubilant Barry McCarty stood on a chair to yell, "Can I call this group to order? After all, I am the parliamentarian!" McCarty, the chief parliamentarian of the SBC, then turned the crowd over to another who made the presentation to Patterson and Pressler. President Jerry Vines and Southern Seminary trustee Jerry Johnson were also present, though they had no part in the public presentation.

This act in a public place seems divisive and inappropriate. I am offended by the actions of McCarty, a member of the Churches of Christ. By calling to order such a partisan event, McCarty compromised his ability to objectively advise the chair.

In the Thursday morning session, I attempted five times to bring this compromise of the convention's integrity to the chair's attention. Twice I was interrupted, and my microphone was silenced. Three times my microphone was not recognized.

I feel the presentation of Cafe Du Monde was an example of cavalier gloating which is far from Christlike. I think McCarty's actions were a breach of Christian ethics. I believe exclusion by the chair on Thursday was an example of political powerplay which hinders the cause of Christ.

Jay Robison
Valley Station, Ky.

The abortion question

Editor:

I am writing in response to the letter from Mr. Robert A. Hayden of Griffin, Ga. I must admit the example he gave of a Mrs. Klein and her accident would certainly result in a difficult choice. I believe that this is a rare example of a reason for having an abortion.

In his letter he mentions abortion for birth control to save face as being wrong, and on that we agree. My question to him as someone who is pro-choice is, "When does the unborn child get to make his or her decision concerning his or her own birth?"

In a society that is becoming more and more godless, the godly men and women must protect those who can not protect themselves.

Charles D. Wallace
Summit

Poignant editorials

Editor:

For the first time I was a messenger from my church to the Southern Baptist Convention. My small church sent 10 messengers, a fact that can be directly attributed to your efforts to inform us and make us aware of circumstances surrounding the issues at the convention.

I have found your editorials to be particularly poignant as they have pled for an end to the controversy and a return to what we're all about: missions and evangelism. I, for one, just want to thank you for that.

Martha Burnham
Forest

Thank you. — Editor

Ministry of motherhood

Editor:

Regarding the article in the May 3 issue of the Baptist Record, titled "The issue is, 'Has God called you?'" by Ann Graham Lotz.

The issue is that God has forbidden woman to teach or to lord it over man. "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression" (I Timothy 2:12-14). "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is man; and the head of Christ is God" (I Cor. 11:3). Verses 4-10 continue to instruct both man and woman in covering or uncovering the head when prayed or prophesying. Verse 10 says, "The woman ought to have power on her head because of the angels." I Cor. 14:34 again says, "Let your women keep silence in the churches... as also sayeth the Law."

Regarding John 20:17-18, Jesus sent Mary Magdalene to tell his disciples he was alive. An old black preacher told me that Jesus didn't send her to preach, but to get the men. I think any taking John 20:17-18 at face value would have to come up with the same interpretation. I think Mary Magdalene is the perfect example of the faithful woman being used of the Lord. Her faith and love led her to his tomb and it was honored by him.

In this same issue of the Baptist Record, the devotional by P. J. Scott used Eccl. 7:25, 27-28, "I applied mine heart to know, and to search and to seek out wisdom... Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account: which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but I find not a woman among all those." Brother Scott says, "My greatest memory of Mama was her intense desire to teach me the Scriptures." How high and bright a ministry is the ministry of motherhood that no man is equipped for!

Ezekiel C. Griffin
Eupora

A lifetime chore

Editor:

About 14 years ago, I dealt with the root of bitterness I had for members of my family, and through the Word of God got victory over it.

A few months ago this bitterness began to creep in again bringing with it anger, doubt, envy, and almost hatred. I wondered why this was happening and what was happening until someone told me that oftentimes Satan tries to bring these things back into one's life, and that we continually have to die to them and get rid of all fleshly lusts and desires.

Then, I realized that a person doesn't wash and iron their clothes just once. It's a lifetime chore. They are clean and ironed for a while, and then they are soiled and wrinkled once more. It's a constant duty and effort of renewal.

Our lives become soiled and wrinkled from the pressures of daily living, and we must wash out the dirt and grime by the blood of Christ and iron out the wrinkles with the Word of God.

Each time we confess our sin of "dirt and grime" then God cleanses us from all unrighteousness and we are "clean and ironed" for a while more.

Linda S. Leach
Greenville

A concept of heaven

Editor:

Since childhood, I have pictured heaven as a beautiful place with lovely mansions, sparkling white marble buildings, and streets of gold. Diamonds and jewels were to be seen on buildings throughout heaven, and music and church bells with choirs of angels singing melodious songs! I do not recall, in particular, noting people in heaven.

Today, my picture of heaven is quite different. In my mind's eye, I see as I may approach heaven a large picture frame of white clouds around the entrance or opening into heaven. Just inside, I see PEOPLE, lots of PEOPLE — loved ones and friends who have gone on ahead. I see the faces of my father, mother, a sister and brother, and relatives I knew in the past. My in-laws, former pastors and Sunday School teachers, and other Christian friends are there.

Among the people, I see Jesus, the apostles, and great personalities of the Old and New Testaments. Sainly people make up heaven. As we say, it is not the church buildings but the Christian people who make up the church.

There is peace in heaven; there are no wars. Bigotry and hate among the races do not exist. All is serene and quiet. Contentment, love, and beautiful music are everywhere.

There may be beautiful buildings and streets of gold in heaven; but to me I now see only Christian family members, friends, and relatives I have loved over the earthly years. Someday to be in their midst again will be heaven to me!

To God be the glory.
Robert S. Leigh
Jackson

Doctrines of grace

Editor:

Pastor Hobbs proved, by Scripture, Judas' guilt. Proving Judas' free will would have been beneficial. Maybe the reason he didn't, besides limited space in the article, is because Scripture doesn't teach free will, and Baptists historically have rejected it as false doctrine.

To cite but a few evidences: scripturally — John 1:12, 13; Romans 5:6; Romans 8:7, 8; Ephesians 2:1,5; Titus 3:3; John 6:44 and historically — the Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689, the Philadelphia (Baptist Association of 1742) Confession, C. H. Spurgeon, Basil Manly, Sr., John Broadus, P. H. Mell.

This error, which long ago was cast aside as heretical, has deceived many and populated the church with a number of pagans and practical atheists.

Oh, that we as a denomination and Christ's church as a whole would ask for the old paths and walk in them. That we would return to the old God-honoring Baptist standard of man's moral and spiritual depravity, God's free electing grace to sinners, Jesus' particular, redeeming love to his own, made effectual only by the Holy Spirit and God's keeping us perseveringly unto salvation.

The doctrines of grace were faithfully preached by Dagg, Broadus, R.B.C. Howell, Richard Fuller, the early church fathers, the apostles, and Jesus. Would that they were good enough for us in this present day.

Rick Smith
Madison

Thursday, July 12, 1990

Vols open gates to Bible knowledge

By Anne W. McWilliams

The Baptist van pulled up to the gates of Mississippi State Penitentiary, and slowed. The driver, Charles Jones, waved at the guards and entered the prison compound. It was noon, June 6, in the sun-cooked Mississippi Delta; Charles and his wife, Hazel, were delivering a load of prison employees' children to their homes which are scattered about on some of the 25,000 acres of penitentiary property. One of America's largest prisons, Parchman is home to a large staff community, perhaps 700-800 on the compound, plus other hundreds who live nearby and work there.

The children had been to Backyard Bible Club at the Sunflower Baptist Center, perhaps a quarter mile outside the gates. Forty of them had been in Vacation Bible School the week before, led by a group of nine from Humphreys County, but this week was the first time volunteers had come from all across the state to lead in Bible club activities.

The six volunteers included Henrietta Farrar of Anguilla; Sharon Brewer of Leland; Carol Ginn and Betty Duck of Liberty; Charlotte Chambers of Greenville; and Connie Bunch of Jackson. They had come on Monday, June 4, and planned to work through June 7. Nights they'd been sleeping on cots in the Baptist Equipping Center. Monica Keathley, consultant, state WMU Department, had coordinated this volunteer venture. Hazel Jones was directing the Bible club. Her husband, Charles, director of missions for Sunflower Association, was picking the children up in early mornings and taking them home again at mid-day. Twenty-five or 30 usually attended.

During the afternoons of the same week, this team was leading in a similar Backyard Bible Club at an apartment house in Drew.

The work of Charles and Hazel Jones in reaching out to prison employees and their children and young people is sponsored jointly by the Sunflower Baptist Association, the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and the Home Mission Board, SBC.

Their ministry revolves around crisis, family, and individual counseling, as well as Big A Club, Vacation Bible School, social activities, and seminars.

They planned to extend school for two more weeks of June, using Backyard Bible Club teaching materials. Usually they had gone on through July, but since so many were to be away on vacation, they decided not to do that this year. "In September, in Big A club, we will pick up the final Vacation Bible School lessons, to follow those taught by the Humphreys Countians," said Hazel. BSU members help teach the Big A Clubs.

As a result of the Bible school activities over the years, Hazel said, "several children have made professions of faith, and we have also been seeing more response from the families, in that more of them are going to church."

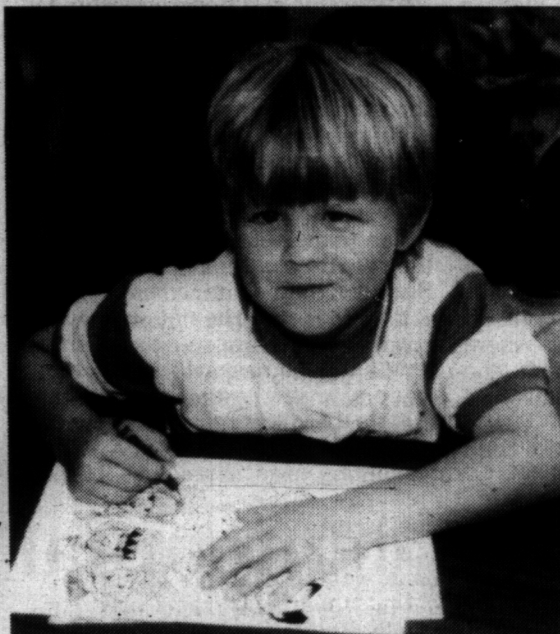
Within the gates, the children gone now, the Joneses and the volunteers stopped to eat lunch at the prison cafeteria and to visit two prison units. Then they stopped at the Baptist Center just long enough to pick up their books, before heading for Drew and another encounter with kids.



Within the gates of Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman live not only prisoners but also a staff community of 700 to 800, and their families.



Betty Duck of Liberty portrays the part of Peter as she tells a Bible story. Carol Ginn of Liberty assisted her in teaching older children at Backyard Bible Club at the Sunflower Baptist Center.



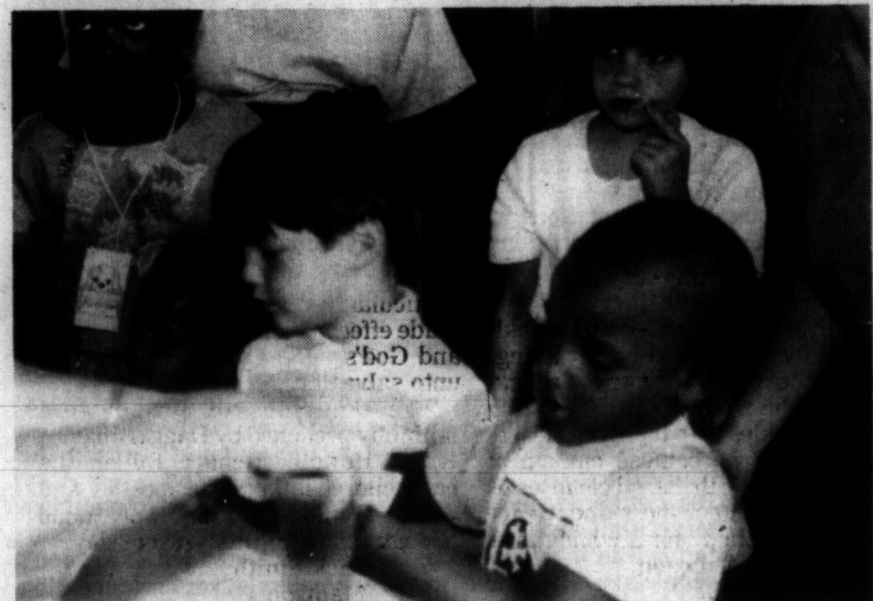
This little boy listens to Miss Henro's story while he wields a crayon.



Sharon Brewer of Leland awaits her turn at teaching.



A log makes as good a bench as any when it's time to eat.



Refreshment time — kids line up for punch and cookies.

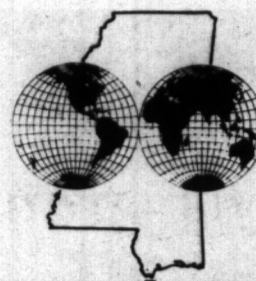


Connie Bunch of Jackson teaches the preschoolers.

"Miss Henro" is what children call Henrietta Farrar of Anguilla. Here she teaches a Bible lesson to children of prison employees.

"We had a wonderful time and we're planning to go back next year." — Connie Bunch

Baptists aid Peru quake victims during SBC week



RIOJA, Peru (BP) — While messengers gathered for the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, six Baptist relief workers aided earthquake victims in northern Peru.

Southern Baptist missionaries and Peruvian Baptists distributed medicine and supplies June 11-16 to victims of a series of quakes that began May 29 near Rioja and Moyobamba, Peru. Two quakes measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale struck the region within 48 hours, killing about 100 people and leaving some 2,000 homeless. Subsequent tremors occurred June 8, killing eight people.

Workers distributed medicine, blankets, tents, and plastic sheeting for temporary shelter in Rioja and surrounding communities. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board provided \$10,000 in disaster relief funds for the team.

No Southern Baptist missionaries live in the quake zone, but a Baptist church exists in Rioja, said relief coordinator Bob Williford, a Southern Baptist missionary from Lubbock, Texas. The concrete and brick church building sustained no damage during the quakes. However, the tremors

demolished a house where the church was begun. A Baptist family who lived in the house is staying temporarily in the church building.

In the village of Porvenir, where relief workers also helped, not a single house was left standing, Williford said. In Rioja, about 95 percent of the homes were destroyed. "People are living in the streets," he said.

Some Peruvian Baptists lost relatives in the disaster, said Hayward Armstrong, chairman of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Peru.

One church member in Lima lost seven family members who lived in Soritor, one of the hardest-hit towns.

The Baptist relief team members included Williford, his 13-year-old son, Clint; missionary Dennis Davidson from Albuquerque, N.M.; a Peruvian Baptist health worker; and two Peruvian pastors.

After arriving in Rioja June 11, some of the team members helped save a man's life while they were walking to the mayor's office to make contact with city officials. They heard a commotion on a rooftop where several Peruvians were working. The Baptists hurried to the house to investigate.

One of the workers had just been

severely shocked by contact with a stray power line. Williford bounded up a ladder to help, but when he reached the roof the man's heart had stopped. He began administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation. "I learned CPR several years ago when I was in college but I had never used it," he said.

Williford revived the man, who was taken to a hospital. He tried to contact the victim later but wasn't able to find him.

As relief efforts got under way, team members distributed more than 100 tents. Since supplies were limited, workers surveyed individual houses to determine the neediest families.

Before the team left for Rioja, they thought they had only 86 tents, said Williford. Workers counted them three times before leaving and again after arriving in Rioja. "We came up with 86 every time," he said.

The team kept careful records as they gave away tents, said Williford. But when they examined their records at the end of the distribution, they had given out 101 tents.

"We don't know where the other tents came from other than the fact that the Lord just multiplied what we had," said Williford.

Helping To Bring Mississippi And The World To Jesus!

Leesburg sees "visitation of God's grace"

The Leesburg Church and community on May 6-9 experienced a visitation of God's cleansing and saving grace. The result of our revival is a testimony to the marvelous promises of our heavenly Father.

The four days and five services produced 33 professions of faith, 26 of which have been baptized into our fellowship and two others who will be in a few days. We also welcomed four new members by letter, and another by statement. While people were being saved and new members were joining, better than 50 LBC members committed the rest of their lives to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

This wonderful visitation of God into our midst was a result of three main functions. First, months before the revival date, originally scheduled for April 1-4, our people prayed about a movement of God's Spirit in our church. They prayed on Wednesdays, they prayed in prayer groups, they prayed in classrooms, and they prayed at home.

The second function consisted of several areas. They prepared for God's movement. Letters were written, special meetings were held, telephone calls were made, face to face invitations were made, and a 24-hour prayer chain was faithfully filled, a men's prayer breakfast was held on Saturday morning before the crusade. It was followed by members handing out over 400 invitations, house to house. Counselors were trained.

The third function was "drawing the net" by a gifted, God-anointed vocational evangelist. His name is Gary Bowlin.

The people prayed. The people prepared. The preacher preached. The Holy Spirit did his work of conviction and souls were born into the kingdom of God. To God be the praise and glory!

Odus Jackson, pastor
Leesburg Church, Morton

Last year Southern Baptist chaplains led 18,622 people to profess faith in Jesus Christ.

BWA sends food to Iran

The most recent bulletin from the Iranian Mission to the United Nations gives the following information:

— Death toll now estimated to exceed 50,000. Rescue teams are being withdrawn as hope fades for finding additional survivors amid the rubble.

— Number injured now estimated to be 110,000. Many of the injured have been flown to hospitals in other parts of the country. Appeals have been made for help in the form of drugs and surgical supplies and for services of the following specialists: general and trauma surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, infectious disease specialists.

— 500,000 people have been left homeless. Seven towns and 300 villages have been completely destroyed. Urgently needed: food, blankets, shelter, cooking stoves, utensils, and fuel.

Baptist World Aid will work through Elam Ministries, a channel identified by Southern Baptists. This mission based in London, England and led by an Iranian, has contacts with evangelical churches in Iran. Food and supplies will be purchased in England and flown to Iran, free of charge, by Iranian airlines.

The Baptist World Alliance has sent a message of condolence to the government of Iran and designated funds for the relief efforts following the recent massive earthquake.

On behalf of the Baptist World Alliance, BWA President G. Noel Vose and General Secretary Denton Lotz sent the following message to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani:

"The Baptist community worldwide joins with all men and women of goodwill in sending our sincere sympathy and condolences at the terrible loss of life, devastation and injury due to the tragic earthquake. Please be assured that our people are contributing aid and shall join in prayer for your people. Out of this tragedy, we pray that all of us will experience the peace and compassion of a merciful God."

Bill Bumpas dies

DALLAS (BP) — W. R. (Bill) Bumpas, 82, former secretary of the Sunday School Department, Baptist General Convention of Texas, died June 22 at his home in Dallas.

Bumpas was minister of education at First Church, Midland, Texas, in 1958-1960 and from 1967 until his retirement. From 1960 to 1967, he coordinated the work of the BGCT Sunday School Department.

Bumpas previously served as educational director for Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, Texas; First Church, Waco, Texas; First Church, North Little Rock, Ark.; and Trinity Church, Oklahoma City.

Pageant launches BSSB centennial

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The centennial celebration of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board was launched June 13 in the Louisiana Superdome in a pageant which elicited nostalgic memories of days gone by.

Dramatic presentations on Vacation Bible School, BYPU and hymns by B.B. McKinney all pointed messengers to look at their past, particularly in areas where the Sunday School Board has grown to provide leadership over the past 100 years.

In the Wednesday morning report of the denomination's education and publishing agency, a Dixieland band led a parade of groups representing the past and looking to the future.

Mule-drawn carriages carried actors representing the early presidents of the Sunday School Board. Groups of employees and trustees of the board also marched in the parade, along with children on a hay-wagon pulled by a tractor.

James L. Sullivan and Grady C. Cothen, both Mississippi natives, the only two living ex-presidents of the Sunday School Board, rode in the

parade in cars typical of when they served at the agency.

Lloyd Elder, president of the board, told messengers he is reminded of the work of the Sunday School Board at every turn as he visits in local churches. From the hymnals to pew Bibles to choir music to literature in Sunday School classes to Home Life and other magazines in the lobby of the church, Elder said, he sees many ways the Sunday School Board "touches the lives of Southern Baptists."

Some of the memories of denominational giants and familiar experiences were presented to messengers dramatically with the help of The Company, a drama group from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

At the end of the parade which started the Sunday School Board report, messengers heard the familiar stand-up chord which has been used in virtually every Vacation Bible School to signal the time to say the pledges to the American and Christian flags and to the Bible. Messengers then participated in the

pledge to the Bible and were seated with the sit-down chord.

Brief vignettes then introduced messengers to board presidents from J.M. Frost, who borrowed \$5,000 from his wife when he first started to work, to Elder.

Sullivan, who headed the board for 22 years and was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention the year after his retirement in 1975, said the greatest contribution of the board to the denomination "will not be found in buildings and size, but in commitments made to Baptists."

"Those commitments include producing Bible-based, Christ-centered, God-honoring publications," Sullivan said. "The board also has been committed to producing programs which minister to people everywhere, in every city, village, and community."

Herschel H. Hobbs, former SBC president who is pastor-emeritus of First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, was introduced to close the report with prayer. Hobbs has written almost 1,200 Sunday School lessons, more than any other writer.

Messianic Jews form fellowship within SBC

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Messianic Jews within the Southern Baptist Convention have formed a new fellowship.

During the denomination's annual meeting in New Orleans, about 30 messengers formed the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship. That brings to 22 the number of ethnic fellowships relating to the SBC.

Ethnic fellowships are independent, autonomous groups that relate to the denomination primarily through the Home Mission Board's language church extension division. The Messianic Fellowship also will relate to

the HMB's interfaith witness department.

The fellowship's president is Jim Hendricks, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Princeton, W.Va. Currently Hendricks knows of fewer than 10 Messianic congregations within the SBC; most are small, struggling congregations with 20-30 members.

Those who have been interested in Messianic work have been frustrated by lack of support in the past, he said. "We felt like nobody was interested."

However, formation of the fellowship and support from the HMB will foster opportunities to strengthen

existing congregations and start new ones, he said.

"We're making definite plans for training and for establishing new works," Hendricks said. "If we could see even 10 or 20 new works in the next 10 years, it would be wonderful."

The fellowship has set a goal of having 1,000 Messianic Jews within the SBC by the denomination's June 1991 annual meeting in Atlanta.

Hendricks said the Southern Baptist Convention is the first denomination to reach out to Jews in any organized fashion. The SBC is the most ethnically diverse denomination

in America with congregations worshipping each week in 101 languages among 97 ethnic groups and 97 American Indian tribes.

Even with this diversity, the denomination has not previously made organized attempts to minister to Jews, Hendricks said. Most evangelistic outreach to Jews in the United States has been done through para-church organizations.

"If you had 5,000 Vietnamese in a city, you would target that and try to start a congregation. But if you have 200,000 Jewish people in a city, no one would give any thought to it," Hen-

dricks said.

"It has been ignored. We haven't been doing that much."

"This is a great day for us," said Jerry Young, vice president of the fellowship and pastor of the Houston Messianic Congregation. "We've been trying to minister to Jews for years, but we keep losing our people because they can't get support" within the SBC.

Leaders of the new fellowship are "legitimate, longtime Southern Baptists," Hendricks added. "We don't want to have to leave the convention to do this."

Devotional

Freedom taken for granted?

By David Sellers

Then said Jesus . . . If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed (John 8:31-32, 36).

Last week our country observed Independence Day. It is one of my favorite holidays. What an exciting time to see our country enjoy the festivities with picnics and fireworks. Our churches have inspirational patriotic programs presented on Christian Citizenship Sunday. The reason that this time of the year has so much meaning is its celebration of freedom, the highest value we have. I am fearful that many have taken this privilege for granted. As Christians, let us not forget this great privilege. For the term "freedom" has even a greater meaning for us than for the non-Christian. Why?



Sellers

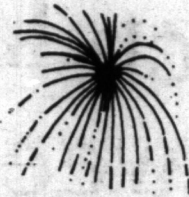
We live in America, a country where freedom offers many opportunities. We can search for the truth. We can choose the direction of our future. We can determine our vocation. We can raise our children with the values that we feel are important. We can go to the church of our choice and worship.

Second, we have found the truth to be in Christ who has given us freedom from the bondage of sin. When we accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, he gave us spiritual liberty. Paul wrote: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2). We do not need to be the citizens of a "free nation" to enjoy this freedom. However, by the grace of God, we have both national freedom as well as spiritual.

Third, we are Baptist, a denomination which has historically believed in the priesthood of the believer. This means that we as Christians have the freedom to discover the truth for ourselves. Christian discipleship is a style of living which involves choice — a voluntary, conscious commitment to Christ. It is a freedom which says it is each person's responsibility in building a personal relationship with God. There is the personal liberty to pray, to interpret the scriptures under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and to find out what the will of God is in your life.

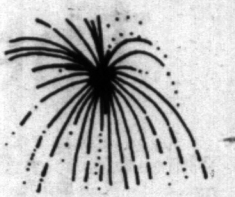
To be an American is a great privilege. To be a Christian American carries more weight. To express this through our Baptist denomination is even greater. This year, let us be grateful for national, spiritual, and denominational freedom. Let us show our gratitude by serving God who has given us the ultimate freedom found in Jesus Christ our Lord. We have found the truth and he has set us free. Let us not take it for granted.

David L. Sellers is pastor, First Church, Collinsville.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



A week of birthdays

"I'll be home the week of the Fourth," I had written all the members of my family. "You are invited to visit us to help celebrate Karen's birthday, Emmett's birthday, and America's birthday."

To my utmost surprise and joy they all accepted! Six arrived on June 29 and four more on June 30, from Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana. When they began to hit some of the wavy swells in Mississippi's roads, 3-year-old Holly had said to Luann, "Mama, you are driving too bouncy!"

Tommy and Susan's Emmett was to be 1 year old on July 9, but we celebrated his birthday at 1 o'clock on June 30, with one little candle on his cake, one big candle on the table, and lots of horns and balloons. His other grandparents, Pauline and Jerry Morse, and another aunt and uncle and cousin, David, Ethel, and Matthew Morse, came over to add to the fun.

It took fortitude on the part of my guests for them to sleep in some of the places I had appointed — including roll-away bed and two couches. I thought we lived on a quiet street, but Luann and Bubba, who slept in the pop-up camper, said police sirens kept waking them up.

To me, the best part of Emmett's birthday was the amazement in his big blue eyes as he tasted his first birthday cake. He stuck his hand into the blue and white icing in the saucer on

his high chair. As his fingers reached his mouth, his elbow struck the cake. His eyes widened in wonder: "That's good!" I could tell he was thinking. He licked his fingers, looked down at his sticky blue elbow, tested the cake with his other hand, and smeared his cheek with blue on the way to his mouth. He examined both smeary arms, as if to say, "This is the funniest looking stuff I ever saw!" Then later, tearing the paper off his packages was to him even better than playing with the new toys in the boxes!

On July 1, we celebrated Karen's birthday, which actually is July 6. I didn't have the 35 candles I needed for her cake, dessert for the Sunday meal. Karen is oldest of my sister Betty's three children; I can always remember her age because she was born the year I was married. However, even the 24 candles I did have made enough light to take a picture without a flash!

Since Heather will be 5 in August, I told her we'd go ahead and begin her celebration now. She looked very pretty in her new dress, with Mickey and Minnie Mouse on the front, when we took her along with the adults to dinner at Delta Point in Vicksburg.

By the time America's 214th birthday arrived on Wednesday, all my company had departed except Mama. She and W.D. and I ate a picnic supper on the patio, enjoying the first cool

breath of air to stir all week, and topped off the meal with juicy watermelon. At dusk, W.D. took down the flag from beside the front door. At 8, we listened to someone at "The Capitol Fourth" in Washington, D.C. sing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

For the first time, Clinton had advertised a fireworks display. We, along with — Judging from the traffic — most of the rest of the people who live in Clinton, drove to Traceway Park to see the flash! splat! fizz! of colors. The night air was nice; the stars were out; there was a warm spirit of community feeling. As I watched, I leaned my head back against my lawn chair and counted my blessings.

Two days in a pop-up camper at Enid ended my week of vacation. It was fun despite the rain on our breakfast, Mama's sore throat, W.D.'s hoarseness, and the 98-degree heat. It gave me a little time to read an Agatha Christie mystery, and to sit and think. On the subject of birthdays, I came across the question, "If I were 21 again, what would I do?" A chapter of a book I read gave the author's answer to that question. He began with Abraham Lincoln's advice to a young man: "Eat three square meals a day, take a little exercise, do your work well, then say your prayers at night. This may not be everything to make you happy, my son, but it will go a long way."

Norris' congregation seeks Southern Baptist ties

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — First Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas, the congregation once headed by arch-Fundamentalist J. Frank Norris, has voted to seek membership in Fort Worth's Tarrant Baptist Association from which it was ousted 68 years ago.

Pastor Bill Ramsey attended the Tarrant Association Pastors' Conference June 18 and announced that the evening before some 400 adult members of his 2,000-member congregation had voted on the matter of rejoining the association — and Southern Baptists — and 80 percent had approved.

The vote came on the first Sunday after Ramsey had attended his first Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, he said.

"I came home with a peace in my heart that the time was a good time to pursue this within our church," he told the Baptist Standard in a telephone interview.

According to the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists, First Church of Fort Worth was led by Norris to discontinue use of Southern Baptist literature in 1920. A year later he began to attack Baylor University for teaching "evolution and infidelity."

"Because of his spirit, methods, acts of non-cooperation, and the unbaptistic practices of his church, the association in 1922 withdrew fellowship from the church. The Baptist General Convention of Texas censured Norris in 1922, refused to seat him in 1923, and, after he had increasingly directed his criticisms against Baptist leaders and institutions, permanently excluded him in 1924," according to the encyclopedia.

Norris continued his criticisms

from outside the denomination, forming his own World Fundamental Baptist Missionary Fellowship. He was pastor of the Fort Worth congregation until 1950. He died in 1952.

Norris was succeeded as pastor of First Church, Fort Worth, by Homer and Omer Ritchie, twin brothers. In 1981 the church merged with Rolling Hills Church and its pastor, Johnnie Ramsey, the father of Bill Ramsey, became pastor and his son was called as co-pastor. When his father retired in 1984, Ramsey said, he was called as pastor.

Ramsey said he had begun to pray about the direction of his church about two years ago and at the same time was "excited about the movement within the Southern Baptist Convention toward its historic moorings. I began to investigate that insofar as it related to the First Baptist Church."

He said he researched a number of Norris' papers at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, and said he found "the issues were essentially the same issues today as they were even then (when the church was ousted), insofar as innerrancy goes.

"I realized also that the First Church did not leave the SBC. In fact there is no record that the church ever voted to disassociate itself from the convention. In fact, one of our ladies in our church who was in the church under Norris at that time said that she recalled the announcement when it was made regarding the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"It was a time of mourning and sorrow within the church," she said. "It wasn't a time of rejoicing. Her words were, 'We wept when we had to leave and we will rejoice if we can return.'"

Ramsey said he felt the church never would have voted to leave the convention.

"Someone has said Norris left by eviction rather than conviction, and I think that is probably pretty accurate," he said.

He prayed about rejoining the association and conventions, he said, and began to discuss it among the church leadership and found an openness and receptiveness.

He has attended state conventions and the Texas Baptist Evangelism Conference in Fort Worth, Ramsey said, and has several friends in the denomination who encouraged him.

The New Orleans convention was the first Southern Baptist Convention he had attended. He said "I came home with a peace in my heart that the time was a good time to pursue this within our church."

The church held an open forum for questions and discussion June 16 and the next day voted to rejoin the association.

On June 18 Ramsey was accompanied by James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Church, Euless, and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, to the Tarrant Baptist Pastors' Conference weekly meeting and was given an enthusiastic welcome.

A secular newspaper report about the church's action said some SBC moderates were viewing the return of the church as a tactic by conservatives to build power to take control of the state convention as they have the SBC.

Churches can send as many as 25 messengers to the state convention,

which meets in Houston in November.

Ramsey said nothing like that was considered by his church.

"I thought it might be perceived as such," he said, "but there is no strategy at work here from our point of view."

Asked if his church would follow associational membership, if it is approved, with support of the Cooperative Program, Ramsey said, "I don't really know what all is involved in this. We are going through it a step at a time, but it (association and BGCT and SBC affiliation) is the will of the church. That matter has been decided, and we are excited about it."

He said news of the church's actions had brought mixed reactions from his pastor friends in other independent Baptist churches, but he has emphasized the church is "burning no bridges with our past, just building some bridges for our future."

"The principle of the autonomy of the local church is involved here," he said. "and whether they agree or disagree they have to say the church had the right to do it."

Draper said Ramsey contacted him about a year ago indicating

dissatisfaction with the direction of Independent Fundamental Baptists and the desire to renew association with Southern Baptists.

"With the conservative resurgence in our convention, Billy indicated he felt more at home among Southern Baptists than with the Independents," Draper said, who said Ramsey expressed appreciation for Southern Baptists' strong stand on the Bible in recent years.

"I believe this could be a symbolic act of tremendous healing," said Draper. He said it could be "just the opposite" if local Baptists view the action as part of a "takeover by Fundamentalists," but he noted Ramsey was warmly received at the pastors' conference.

Tarrant Association Moderator Ronald Beams, pastor of First Church, Benbrook, said the pastors responded "very positively" to Ramsey and the church's decision.

"Our pastors felt he was very courageous, welcomed him openly and covenanted to pray for him and his church as they seek direction," Beams told the Baptist Standard. "My feeling is the church will be accepted."

Japanese, Soviets plan partnership

TOKYO, Japan — Japanese from two of the country's Baptist groups flew to the Soviet Union in May to prepare for a partnership evangelism crusade with Soviet Baptists. Three pastors from the Japan Baptist Convention, which works closely with Southern Baptist missionaries, were

among those who visited churches in Kiev, Leningrad and Moscow. They gave testimonies in each location.

The Japanese Baptist leaders said they hope Soviet Baptists will participate in crusades in Japan and that Japanese can help strengthen Baptist witness in the Soviet Union.

The right to free speech

(Continued from page 2)

White House to determine what is news and whether or not it would be printed. We do operate under a free press?

Why, then, are these men being asked to resign? Sam Pace said "an ever increasing perception of the vast majority" of the Executive Committee was that Baptist Press has been "the very opposite" of "fair, equitable and balanced." Yet, John Dart of the Los Angeles Times, president of the Religion Newswriters Association, made up of specialists covering religion, made the following statement, "Religion reporters have considered Baptist Press the best journalistic service of any denomination." Impartial studies and other statements describe the Baptist Press as "highly reliable, objective, and adhering to the best journalistic standards" and "as fair and balanced as humanly possible."

How can you fire two people based on lame excuses "graciously" and in a "loving manner." All Southern Baptists should have that explained to them, especially the wives and families of these two outstanding men.

Will the denomination be better served by the firing of these two men? Secular news writers across the country think not. George W. Cornell, an AP religion writer said, "While historians give Baptists special credit for First Amendment guarantees of no state church and freedom of religion, assembly, speech, and press — Southern Baptist officials have clamped down on their own press." Most state editors of Baptist papers agree that the firing of these men should not take place at the special called Executive Committee meeting on July 17. Baptist heritage would advise that the firing not take place. R. Gene Puckett of Raleigh, N.C., editor of North Carolina's denominational paper, the Biblical Recorder, said "In essence, they're rejecting the Baptist heritage." These men have reached their prime years in which to be of service to God and to Southern Baptist through accurate reporting of facts and noteworthy stories. Al Shackleford has worked for Southern Baptists for 35 years, the last three years and four months in his present position. His press experience and his knowledge of Southern Baptists and their ministries are a valuable asset to our denomination.

I must personally conclude that Southern Baptists would not be best served by the firing of these two men. This will be another black eye on Southern Baptists because of our poor handling and attacks on our paid leaders.

The right to free speech and the freedom of press are both being somewhat diminished by some of our present elected leadership in the SBC.

How long will we as the average Southern Baptist church staff members and lay person destruction alike allow attacks to continue against the men and women who have served Southern Baptists well for decades?

I cannot speak for every professor; each president of our Southern Baptist seminaries; the president of our Foreign Mission Board, Keith Parks; the president of our Sunday School Board, Lloyd Elder; the past president of the Woman's Missionary Union, Carolyn Weatherford Crumper; the executive director of Baptist Joint Committee, James Dunn; or Al Shackleford or Dan Martin; but I can say that I am tired of these people being unnecessarily and many times unjustly attacked.

I cannot understand why continued efforts to fire or muzzle these and other leaders have been made. We should demand our institutional and agency heads to speak to us on denominational matters, not give them a position of leadership, then take it away through the workings of the trustees, and then ask them to be silent. These people have given their entire lives and careers to Southern Baptists throughout the world. We elected these people to positions of leadership because of their proven commitment to excellence and to Jesus Christ. I cannot understand why we would ask these men and women to serve in such important and vital positions and then ask them to be silent concerning the direction of our convention.

If we are confident as a convention that we are carrying out God's commission to us in the best ethical way possible, then no Southern Baptist should feel threatened when differing opinions are expressed. Instead of suppressing different views like Central American and Eastern European countries, we should as Christians encourage them to speak and listen to them very intently to see if there be any error in our ways.

Freedom of speech is part of our American heritage and, more importantly, part of our Southern Baptist heritage. This right of expressing one's opinions and heart-felt concern over possible error in different issues should not only be allowed, but should be encouraged to ensure that we are heading down the right paths as a convention.

I am pleading for the freedom of speech to be given to all SBC leaders. I am also calling for Southern Baptists to protest the attempts to fire Dan Martin and Al Shackleford, and, by so doing, ensure that Baptists across the nation will be assured of accurate, responsible, and uncensored news. An uncontrolled Baptist Press allows Southern Baptists to be able to exercise our right to know the truth, be it pleasant or unpleasant. A free Baptist Press also allows the victims

of attacks the opportunity to tell "the rest of the story," their story.

Drastic actions by our Executive Committee and some of our trustee boards call for drastic accountability. Let us not allow people, God's children, and our brothers and sisters in Christ, to have their names and reputations and ministries be wrecked without a high level of accountability from those doing the attacking. Let us demand accountability and a free press to ensure that Southern Baptists do not continue to attack one another unjustly and unnecessarily.

Each person has the right and Christian responsibility to take a stand for what he or she feels is right and against what is wrong. Contact your Mississippi representatives to the Executive Committee and express your concern and raise questions over this attempt to fire two of our leaders and other attacks on our leaders. Our representatives are Russell Bush (o) 544-5444 (h) 582-4138, Larry Otis (o) 841-0171 (h) 842-7657, and James Yates (o) 746-2471 (h) 746-2540.

The Southern Baptist Convention has been gaining a great deal more secular press in recent months. A non-Southern Baptist friend reminded me the other day that most all of it has been bad press. May God grant that we stop shooting at each other while the enemy sits by and laughs at our self-destruction. The bullets we shoot usually have a way of finding a target, either a brother or sister in Christ or part of the lost world we should be trying to reach for Christ. Who knows, the next bullet that is fired might even hit you or a loved one of yours. Our labels and other irresponsible attacks have become damaging to the lives, character, families of each other, and to our ministries to a lost and hurting world.

We as Southern Baptists are smart enough to discern the truth as long as all sides and issues are presented. A free press, in the end, will give us the best opportunity to arrive at the truth; and may God grant that the whole truth will set us free.

Will McRaney is pastor of Jackson Avenue Church, Pasagoula.

Adams/Union calls DOM

Dale Little is the new director of missions for Adams/Union Baptist Associations. He begins work July 16.



Little

Little goes to the missions post from the pastorate of Springdale Church, West, where he has served since 1983. He was associate pastor and music director at West McComb Church, McComb, 1981-83; he was music and youth director at Lexie Church, Tylertown, 1979-81; and he was pastor at Centerville Church, Tylertown, 1977-79.

Other church staff jobs Little has held include being music and youth director at Foxworth Church, Foxworth, 1976-77, and at Carmel Church, Monticello, 1975-76.

Little is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and earned the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Little and his wife Dottie have two children.

Concord (Calhoun) will celebrate 150th year

Concord Church, Calhoun Association, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Aug. 5. The church was organized in August of 1840 as part of Yalobusha Association. Pictures and written histories of Concord Church that are available should be mailed to: Anniversary Committee, Route 2, Box 50, Bruce, MS 38915.

Shackleford . . .

(Continued from page 3)

and a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga.; the University of Georgia in Athens; and Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Martin, 51, came to Baptist Press as news editor Aug. 1, 1980.

Previously, he was on the staff of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Texas convention.

He is a native of Wichita Falls, Texas, and a graduate of Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, Texas. He also attended Southwestern Seminary.

This Baptist Press story was written by Dan Martin and Al Shackleford.

Rioting breaks out among Kirghiz, Uzbeks

RICHMOND, Va. — Mission officials are asking Southern Baptists to renew their prayers for the Kirghiz and Uzbek people groups in the Soviet Union. Rioting between Kirghiz and Uzbeks over housing rights June 5 left 11 people dead and more than 200 people injured in a city bordering the Soviet republics of Kirgizia and Uzbekistan.

The Kirghiz people were the focus of this year's World Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization June 1-2. The Uzbeks will be the focus of the 1991 day of prayer. The dispute began June 4 over sections of land claimed for future housing by both groups in Osh, a city of 210,000 people where housing is in short supply.

"Many Southern Baptists and other Great Commission Christians around the world have been praying for these unevangelized people groups," said Minette Drumwright, director of the Foreign Mission Board's prayer office. "I call for a renewed commitment to earnest prayer for reconciliation and for open doors to the gospel of Christ."

Mowrey nomination: 'misunderstanding'

NASHVILLE (BP) — A misunderstanding caused longtime Nashville pastor Bob Mowrey to allow his nomination for registration secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention at the recent annual meeting.

Mowrey, pastor of Park Avenue Church, told the Baptist and Reflector, newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, that a friend on the SBC Executive Committee had called him early on the morning of the election, June 13, and indicated that the incumbent registration secretary would not seek re-election.

"He asked me if I would be willing to allow my name to be placed in nomination," Mowrey explained, thinking there would be other nominations from the floor.

"It certainly wasn't a big conspiracy," Mowrey said.

Mowrey lost the election to Lee Porter, an editor with the Nashville-based Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, by a margin of 71-29 percent.

Porter has held the post, which involves the registration process as well as balloting, since 1977. Traditionally, convention secretaries have been re-elected without opposition.

"If I had known my friend Lee Porter was going to be nominated, I probably would not have allowed my name to be considered," Mowrey added. He said he is committed not to ever run against Porter.

He said he learned from the experience and would get the "facts" before allowing his nomination in a similar situation. "As long as Lee is secretary, my name will not be given for nomination," he said.

Mowrey said he thinks the incident

was simply a misunderstanding and that there was no organized attempt to unseat Porter as registration secretary. "I don't believe I was deliberately misled," Mowrey said, laughing. He added that if it had been an "organized" attempt it definitely didn't work. Mowrey lost the election by more than 8,000 votes. In fact, Guy Sanders of Lake Wales, Fla., who was to nominate him, was not present when nominations were given. Stan Coffey of Amarillo, Texas, made the nomination.

"We ought to be Christian and keep hatred out of our hearts and make sure we have love for each other," Mowrey said, referring to Southern Baptist Convention proceedings.

Porter noted Mowrey offered his apology the afternoon following the election. Porter verified that Mowrey said he was told Porter planned not to run again.

Porter said he believed there was a planned effort to unseat him. "I have never said I was going to retire or even implied it. I'm delighted to serve Southern Baptists in this capacity," he said.

Porter emphasized he has no hard feelings about having other nominations. "Bob Mowrey and I are friends and I feel he was misled. I appreciate his spirit and his willingness to talk with me Wednesday afternoon."

Marshall Albritton, a layman at Park Avenue Church and a member of the Tellers Committee, said he was shocked when he heard Mowrey's nomination. He talked with Mowrey prior to the SBC and the Park Avenue pastor did not mention he might be nominated, Albritton confirmed.

Honor Roll lists MC among character builders

NASHVILLE (BP) — Nineteen Southern Baptist-related colleges and universities have been named to two honor rolls of distinction by the John Templeton Foundation.

The honor rolls, selected by presidents and development directors from more than 1,400 colleges and universities, is named for John Marks Templeton, an investment expert.

One of the honor rolls honors schools that excel in building moral and spiritual character and the other lists institutions with a commitment to teaching "the traditional Western political and economic philosophies" generally known as "free enterprise."

Twelve Baptist schools are on the Honor Roll of Free Enterprise Teaching, which lists 95 schools on the list.

Nineteen Baptist schools are among the 102 listed on the Honor Roll for Character-Building Schools.

Eleven of the schools appear on both lists. They are:

Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; Baylor University, Waco, Texas;

Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C.; Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.; Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss.; Furman University, Greenville, S.C.;

Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla.; Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky.; William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.; Belmont College, Nashville, and Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.

Two schools — Wingate College, Wingate, N.C., and Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla. — are listed on the free enterprise teaching honor roll.

Listed as top character-building schools are:

Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark.; Stetson University, Deland, Fla.; Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky.; Louisiana College, Pineville, La.; Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C.; Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C.; Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Union University, Jackson, Tenn.

FMB sets guidelines on belief statements

By Art Toalston

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — A Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustee committee has adopted guidelines to help missionary candidates write clearer statements of belief during the application process.

The trustees' Mission Personnel Committee adopted the guidelines during the board's June 8-9 meeting at Tulane University prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in the Louisiana Superdome.

The guidelines stem from trustee action last August creating a committee to annually review the missionary appointment process. The guidelines will be listed in a cover letter to accompany a "Sharing of Christian Beliefs" questionnaire traditionally used in the Foreign Mission Board's screening of missionary candidates.

The two-page questionnaire, which has undergone periodic revision by the agency's staff in the past, has asked applicants to state their beliefs about God, Jesus, the Bible and other doctrines as well as Southern Baptist cooperative work.

Now, the guidelines will list specifics to be addressed in each section of the questionnaire.

The section on the Bible, for example, previously asked candidates to: "Describe your views of the Bible. How do you use the Bible in your personal life?" Now, the guidelines for the Bible section ask candidates to address: "Inspiration, authority, reliability, purpose, miracles, historical narratives, use in your personal life."

Regarding Jesus Christ, the new guidelines ask for comments on his nature, uniqueness, birth, life, death, resurrection, second coming, and "your relationship to Him."

Trustees also expanded the questionnaire to include a separate section on cooperative Southern Baptist work, which previously was part of the section on the church. The cooperative work guidelines ask missionary can-

didates for their views on association, state and national conventions, Cooperative Program, and "your involvement." The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' longstanding channel for churches to fund foreign and home missions and other denominational causes.

The Mission Personnel Committee, in adopting the guidelines, "did not have a desire to fit anybody into a certain mold," said its chairman, Paul Sanders, pastor of First Church of Geyer Springs, Little Rock, Ark.

But the committee did want missionary candidates "to be more definitive in writing their beliefs," Sanders said, "so the staff and trustees know what (the candidates) believe about basic Baptist doctrines."

Sanders stated that Foreign Mission Board staff members handle most of the screening of missions applicants and that the staff often has had to seek amplification of initial written statements.

Harlan Spurgeon, Foreign Mission Board vice president for mission personnel, agreed that staff often has requested clarifications from missionary candidates.

Spurgeon noted that the proposed guidelines were drafted by staff members. The trustee committee, before its vote to adopt the guidelines, expanded them to include the matters of creation and salvation. Spurgeon said the guidelines are neither "an adding to nor a taking from" the standards missionaries traditionally have been called to meet.

Sections on personal witnessing and the Baptist Faith and Message underwent little change. The old and new forms asked applicants to relate an encounter in which they had led someone to faith in Christ, for example, and to affirm their agreement with the statement of beliefs adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963 and reaffirmed in more recent conventions.

Art Toalston writes for FMB.

Dilday and Honeycutt respond to questions

By Robert O'Brien

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Two Southern Baptist seminary presidents fielded questions from messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention that related to the denomination's political/theological controversy.

Russell Dilday of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Roy Honeycutt of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., responded to questions following annual progress reports on their seminaries.

Messenger Michael Haley of Lakeland, Fla., who said he overheard a press interview with Dilday, asked him to clarify whether he had labeled SBC actions June 12 as "satanic."

Dilday said he had not referred to the SBC meeting but to methodology used during the past 12 years in the SBC controversy.

"The comment I made in answer to press questions yesterday," Dilday said, "was that the methodology used in the takeover of the convention in these past 12 years — the crass, secular, political methodology — does have satanic, evil qualities to which I am desperately opposed."

Dilday added: "I did indicate that if Satan were interested in the destroying of the work of an evangelistic body such as this, the outcome we have seen in these 12 years would indeed be the kind of quality we would see in that intervention."

Michael Westmoreland White, a 1990 graduate of Southern Seminary from Louisville, asked Honeycutt if recent charges against him had not already been "laid to rest" by the SBC Peace Committee.

He referred to charges of "doctrinal infidelity" made against Honeycutt and several faculty members by seminary trustee Jerry Johnson of Aurora, Colo.

Honeycutt responded that he could not speak for the Peace Committee, a group formed to study theological issues related to the controversy.

But he said Southern Seminary's trustees had taken the Peace Committee study seriously and had voted 41-11 in 1986 that there were "no charges worthy of dismissal" represented in the committee's concerns.

In his report to messengers, Dilday lauded his faculty and staff "who this past year, despite criticism and unfounded accusations, continue to serve our Lord and the churches of this convention with an admirable consistency."

He said most of the seminary's students were "12 and 13 years old when the controversy, which has so deeply divided our denomination, began a decade ago. They have grown up assuming that this is a normative pattern of Southern Baptist life."

Dilday called it ironic that Southwestern Seminary is experiencing a growing appreciation "in the larger, evangelical Christian world" while it has been "the target of criticism and reproach from within our convention family."

He said Southwestern was ranked first on a list of seminaries in a survey conducted by Christianity Today, a leading evangelical theological journal. He said five of the six SBC seminaries were ranked in the survey's top 20.

Dilday and Honeycutt both reported emphasis on missions, evangelism and biblical fidelity by seminary students, faculty and staff during the past year.

Robert O'Brien is on the staff of FMB.

Ferrell tells kids:

"People who eat monkeys need to hear gospel, too!"

NEW ORLEANS, June 12 — People who eat monkeys, boa constrictors, and guinea pigs need to hear the gospel, said Southern Baptist missionary Curtis Ferrell of Quito, Ecuador. Ferrell is a Mississippian.

Addressing 291 children attending the Brotherhood Commission's SBC Day Camp in New Orleans Seminary, Ferrell, a general evangelist, said "People there need Jesus Christ just like you do."

"I want the kids to have an awareness that even though people are different they need Jesus Christ in their lives," explained Ferrell, who is attending Broadmoor Church in Jackson during furlough.

While observing a condor feather, a musical instrument, and some Ecuadorian clothes, children in grades 1-6 learned that not everyone is just like them. At least one child has already learned that lesson.

Noel Clark, 8, lives in the Philippines where his parents are Southern Baptist missionaries. Though active in Royal Ambassadors, the Brotherhood Commission's missions education program for boys in grades 1-9, Clark was attending his first SBC Day Camp.

"I would like the kids to learn what I have learned . . . that people are different," said Noel, whose family is attending First Church, Houston, during furlough. It's the differences, he continued, that makes being a missionary fun.

At least one other day camper had first hand experience in missions. Ken Wilson 7, from Gold Coast Church, Green Acres, Fla., said being with missionaries in day camp is, "Terrific. I like the things they do and the things we learn." But it isn't all new to him.

"I already am a missionary," he said. "I told a kid about Jesus who didn't go to church at all."

"We are looking forward to a lot of these kids one day becoming missionaries," said Ferrell. "Hopefully some experiences like this will expose them to missions and the need for missionaries overseas."

SBC Day Camp coincides annually with the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The purpose is to give the children a place to learn about missions, play games, and have fun during the day while their parents are here attending convention business," said James Warren, Brotherhood Commission editor for Crusader magazine.

Leaders urge Sons and Daughters to stay in SBC

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Four Southern Baptist leaders challenged college and seminary students to stay within the Southern Baptist Convention, working to effect change and further mission efforts.

Speaking to about 400 people gathered for a rally sponsored by the Sons and Daughters of the Southern Baptist Convention, the heads of three of the denomination's missions organizations and one of the candidates for the convention's presidency pointed to Southern Baptists' continuing commitment to missions and the need for the current generation of Southern Baptist students to carry on that commitment.

The SBC's organizing purpose, continuing cohesiveness and future hope revolve around the denomination's cooperative mission effort, said R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Calling the SBC's cooperative plan of giving the envy of every mission group in the world and the best plan yet developed for Christians to support missions, Parks said, "I plead

with you not to destroy this plan until you come up with a better plan."

As to the future of the denomination, Parks told members of Sons and Daughters, a group of students organized around the goal of ending strife within the SBC, "I hope you do better in the future than we're doing in the present."

Every Christian owes an unpayable debt to God, said Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta and a candidate for the SBC presidency.

"The older you grow as a Christian," Vestal continued, "the more you realize you owe to the past. The more you grow as a Southern Baptist, the more you realize you owe to those who have given their lives to forging Baptist distinctiveness."

Although also invited to speak during the rally, Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, and the other major presidential candidate, declined, citing other commitments.

Kathy Palen is on the staff of BJC.

1,882 commit themselves to foreign mission support

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — A record 1,882 people committed themselves to foreign missions support or participation during the Foreign Mission Board's report to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13 in New Orleans.

By signing decision cards, 1,430 people pledged to support missions and 452 committed to some type of mission work overseas. That total included 115 people interested in career missionary service and more than 300 in-

terested in volunteer missions.

Total pledges are expected to top 1,900 when additional mailed-in decision cards arrive at the board's Richmond, Va., headquarters.

The number of people indicating interest in becoming career missionaries fell below the total in 1988, when 166 people pledged to consider a career in missions. But mission officials said this year's record overall missions commitment is encouraging.



Calvary Church sits at the end of a dead end street. It faces the length of the SOI (lane) that comes in to the church compound off the main street of Sukumvit Road, one of the major streets in the city of Bangkok, Thailand. (Photo by Bob Stewart)

Calvary, Bangkok, renovates building

Calvary Baptist Church, Bangkok, Thailand (English speaking) recently held a dedication service for its renovated sanctuary and education wing. The project, which cost a little over 2,700,000 baht (about \$104,000) was funded by gifts from church members and friends.

The project included air-conditioning, carpeting the sanctuary, and installation of a cross-shaped stained-glass window in the front wall of the sanctuary.

The window was designed, constructed, and painted by the pastor-missionary James D. Bryant.

The church building, located at a dead end, faces directly toward the length of the street which leads into one of the main arteries of traffic. The cross is centered, not only in the church building, but it is also centered facing all the way down the street, giving a visual witness for Christ to the local residents.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Compere of Florence, middle, pose with Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles, left, and Aubrey Boone, right, as Compere establishes a scholarship fund with MC through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation which is headed by Boone. After providing in his will for his family, Compere wanted to make a contribution toward Christian education. Working with the Foundation, Compere deeded a portion of his land to the Foundation which sold it and placed the proceeds in an investment program, the interest of which will go to needy students at MC preparing for Christian service. This procedure saved Compere from having to pay a capital gains tax on his property and to make a charitable contribution. The total amount in the fund is \$65,000. Said Boone, "Mr. Compere will be able to see benefits from this contribution while he lives and has the assurance that benefits will continue after his decease."

Staff changes

Rena Goss has resigned at Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, and is moving to north Mississippi. She was director of childhood education. Diane Ladner will serve as interim childhood education director.

Bennie J. McBride recently became minister of education and administration at Parkway Church, Natchez. He had served as associate pastor in music and education at First Church in Woodville, Texas, for the past six years. McBride is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.



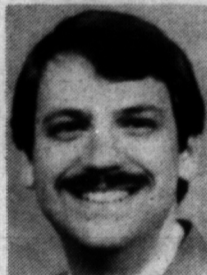
McBride

First Church, Biloxi, has called Barry Sneed as minister of youth, effective June 1. His previous place of service was First Church, Oxford. A native of Pontotoc, he received his education from Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Frank Gunn is pastor.



Sneed

Billy Rowzee has resigned Carson Ridge Church, Ethel. His last Sunday was June 24. He has been called to pastor Rock Bluff Church in Rankin Association. Rowzee served Carson Ridge Church for five years.



McFatter

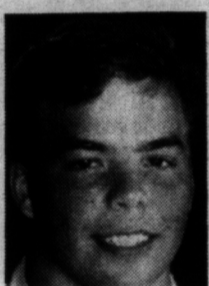


Brister

First Church, Amory, has called two new staff members. Jimmy McFatter, left, has accepted the position of minister of education, effective June 1. A native of Hattiesburg, McFatter received his education at University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was serving as pastor at Pleasant Home Church in Laurel.

Chuck Brister, right, of Winona has recently become minister of youth. He is a student at Mississippi State University.

Chip Glaze of Clinton is serving at Tylertown Church as director of children's and youth activities for the summer. Glaze is a psychology major at MC and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Glaze.



Glaze

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Names in the news

William E. Adams Jr., was awarded the master of divinity degree from Golden Gate Seminary during commencement exercises on June 2. He is a graduate of William Carey College and currently serves as pastor of First Church in San Pablo, Calif.

Charlene Byrd, a music evangelist, is available for revivals and concerts as a singer, musician (instruments), and song leader. She can be reached by phone at (601) 722-3359. Her mailing address is Route 2, Seminary, MS 39479. Miss Byrd is a member of Union Church in Covington County.

David Ralph Mitchell, Jr., received the master of divinity with special emphasis in religious education on May 18 at New Orleans Seminary.

Mitchell is pastor at Locust Street Church in McComb.

Mary "Patsy" Lawton, 72, emeritus Southern Baptist missionary who worked in Italy 36 years, died of cancer June 17. She was born in Ogbomoso, Nigeria, the daughter of missionaries. She wrote a biography of her father, "Alonzo Scott Patterson of Africa," published by Broadman Press in 1954.

First K'ekchi' church in Belize

SAN ROMAN, Belize — San Roman Church was recently constituted as the first K'ekchi' Indian church in the Baptist Association of Belize. During the service in San Roman, Belize, the church also ordained two K'ekchi' pastors and baptized 22 new believers. The newly ordained pastors, Edwardo Che and Crisento Tush, have led the congregation since its beginning in 1985.

Southern Baptist missionaries Cliff and Bettye Scarbrough started Baptist work with the K'ekchi' people in Belize in 1983. They work with five other K'ekchi' congregations and four English-language churches in Belize. The K'ekchi' of Central America are descendants of ancient Mayans.



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Revival dates

Thursday, July 12, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 13

Rock Hill Church, Mt. Olive (Covington): July 15-20; Sunday, regular services; Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; homecoming and dinner on the grounds; Mike Howell, Ridgeland, evangelist; Tom Mercier, Prentiss, music; Dwayne Kelly, pastor.

Antioch Church, Florence (Simpson): July 15-20; 7:30 nightly; Jim Pinkerton, evangelist; Todd Vance, minister of music; Barry Ward, pastor.

White Oak Church, Magee: July 15-20; Sunday services, 11 a.m., dinner and afternoon service to follow; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Max Price, evangelist; Cecil Harper, music; James Edwards, pastor.

Mt. Gilead Church, Blue Springs: July 15-20; singing, 6:30 p.m.; preaching, 7 p.m.; George Cook, Denmark Church, Oxford, evangelist; The Gospel Survivors leading singing on July 20; Johnny McCullough, pastor.

Hawthorn Church (Jeff Davis): July 15-20; Sunday morning, regular services; 1:30 p.m. service; no night service; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Eddie Myers, Oakvale Church (Lawrence), evangelist; Darvin Barnes, music; Jody Lightsey, pastor.

Splunge Church, Amory (Monroe): July 22-26; 7:30 nightly; James Rutledge, pastor, evangelist; Larry Stacy and Billy Joe Tackett, Victory Church, Nettleton, music.

Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto (Lincoln): July 15-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. with covered dish served after service; 1:30 p.m., service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; James A. Walters, pastor, Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula, evangelist; Stacey Smith, Mt. Zion Church, (Lincoln) music; Jim McIntosh, pastor.

McCool Church (Attala): July 15-20; each evening at 7; Danny Dodds, pastor, Second Church, Kosciusko, speaker; Jim Hulen, Taylorsville, music; covered dish meal, Sunday, 5:45 p.m.; James L. Bailey, pastor.

Malmaison Church, Carrollton (Carroll): July 16-20; services, 7:30 p.m.; Guy Reedy, First Church, Water Valley, evangelist; Tommy Lane, minister of music emeritus, Bellevue Church, Memphis, music; Fred Lawrence, pastor.

Learned Church (Hinds-Madison): July 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. followed by fellowship meal; Thurs.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Cliff Nelson, evangelist; Mr. and Mrs. Roger Alford, musicians; Sam Mason, pastor.

First Church, Sumrall (Lamar): July 15-20; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 11:45 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; John Phillips, Bible teacher, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Ill., evangelist; Dan Guest, Bowmar Avenue Church, Vicksburg, music; Glenn Davis, pastor.

Carmel Church, Monticello: July 8-13; David Grumbach, pastor, Standing Pines Church, Carthage, evangelist; W. J. Nelson, Monticello, music; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. with other services beginning at 7:30 p.m.; Johnny Sykes, interim pastor.

Puckett Church (Rankin): July 15-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Ed Griffin, First Church, Ridgeland, evangelist; Ronnie Nelson, Alabama, music; Alvin C. Doyle, pastor.

Mt. Olivet Church (Scott): July 15-18; homecoming, Sunday, 11 a.m. and dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m. Larry Duncan, evangelist; Travis Polk, pastor.

Pleasant Ridge Church, Woodland (Chickasaw): July 22-27; Sunday, 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m.; Eddie Knox, New Palestine Church, Picayune, evangelist; Lisa Gurley, Pleasant Ridge Church, music; Barron Pilgrim, pastor.

Calvary Church (Lincoln): July 15-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Steve Purvis, Stanton Church, Natchez, evangelist; Terry Walker, Pearlhaven Church, Brookhaven, music; Emon White, pastor.

Fellowship Church (Choctaw): July 15-20; Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Ralph Culp, evangelist; Garland Eaves, pastor.

Spring Hill Church, Martinsville (Copiah): July 15-18; 7 p.m.; Robin Jumper, Wellman Church, Bogue Chitto, evangelist; Don Brown, Monticello United Methodist Church, McComb, music; John Price, pastor.

Pleasant Grove Church, Vossburg (Clarke): July 15-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Rex Yancey, First Church, Quitman, evangelist; Wayne Baggett, First Church, Quitman, music; Keith Bogan, pastor.

Antioch Church (Jasper): July 15-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. with lunch served; service, 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7:15 p.m.; Lindy Reed, pastor, Birchwood Church, Independence, Mo., evangelist; Carey Bass, pastor.

Poplar Springs Church (Copiah): July 15-20; homecoming, Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, singing, 1:30 p.m., no night services; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Mike Carr, pastor, Wesson Church, Wesson, evangelist; Jewell Greer, Russell Church, Meridian, music; James Berch, pastor.

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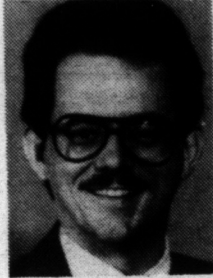
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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

God's bumper stickers — truths in proverbs

By Bob Rogers
Proverbs 22:1-16

A bumper sticker says, "Don't be caught dead without Jesus." A T-shirt says, "My faith is on the rock and my name is on the roll." A church sign proclaims, "Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ is Lord." Such slogans grab our attention because they pack a powerful message in a few words. They are like the wise one-liners about life in this Sunday's lesson, Proverbs 22:1-16.



Rogers

Each of these verses stands alone as general truth about practical, godly living. Due to lack of space, we will cover six themes in eight of the verses.

1) **Reputation is more important than riches** (vs. 1).

"A good name" refers to your reputation. The Good News Bible makes this verse quite clear:

UNIFORM

"If you have to choose between a good reputation and great wealth, choose a good reputation."

2) **Humility brings reward** (vs. 4).

"Humility" is defined as "fear of the Lord." Being humble is not meekness; it is reverence for God. When we give Christ the glory for our accomplishments, we will be rewarded with "riches, honour, and life."

3) **Train and discipline children** (vss. 6, 15).

Christian parents have a dual responsibility. On the positive side, we are to teach our children about Christ by involving the family in the local church and home devotions. This involvement should not be left up to the child to decide (vs. 6). On the negative side, we are to discipline our children when they disobey. How often have we seen a parent scold a child, only to be ignored by the child? Spanking is necessary, but this does not justify physical abuse (vs. 15).

4) **Help the poor** (vss. 9, 10).

Verse 9 offers a blessing on those who feed the poor; verse 16 warns of a curse on those who oppress the poor. Yes, there are those who abuse welfare, and yes, Jesus said that we will always have the poor with us (Mark 14:7). We will always have unbelievers with us, too. That does not mean we are not to help them. If we neglect aiding the needy and neglect making a stand for justice for the poor, we are disobeying God's Word.

5) **Don't make excuses for laziness** (vs. 13).

Many of the proverbs are humorous (compare Proverbs 19:24). The one in verse 13 pictures a lazy man excusing himself from working because there might be a lion outside. Let's be honest with ourselves. Are some of our excuses for not serving the Lord just as ridiculous?

6) **Adultery is dangerous** (vs. 14).

The "strange" woman referred to here is a foreign woman who was probably promiscuous. Listening to her enticing words is like falling into a deep ditch. This warning was addressed

to a man, but the same principle applies to a woman, who must avoid the dangers of the charming man who shows her more attention than her husband (see 2 Timothy 3:2-6).

Proverbs teach general truths about life. Sometimes the humble man does not gain riches. Sometimes the parent trains the child in the Lord, but the child departs from the church and never returns. Sometimes adulterers seem to get away with their sinfulness without any earthly consequences. These exceptions to the rule do not change the overarching truthfulness of these proverbs. Obeying their teachings will bring its reward in the long run.

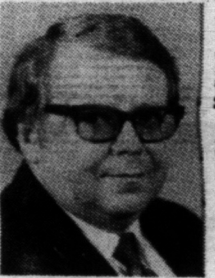
Make a chart of the lessons from life discussed above. Rate yourself and have everybody in your class rate themselves on a scale of 1 to 10 in each area. Discuss which areas need improvement, and pray for God's guidance. A younger or creative class may want to design their own bumper stickers to express these truths in their own words.

Rogers is pastor, Calvary Church, Gloster.

"Evaluate your spiritual condition"

By Jim Smith
James 3:1-12

When we want to evaluate our physical condition we visit a doctor who checks a number of different factors before he gives us a report on our health. As our lesson title this week indicates, James has given us several guidelines for evaluating our spiritual condition.



Smith

James begins by giving a caution to those who would be teachers or leaders in a position to influence others by what we say. Unlike today where we usually own several Bibles as well as excellent published literature for Sunday School and all of our organizations, the early church depended on their teachers for instruction. Interpretations, doctrines and, yes, even scripture was passed along verbally — from teacher to member. Like the rabbi of the Jews, the teacher in the early church gained great respect. It was and is a great responsibility.

LIFE AND WORK

ty. As the teacher in the early church touched each new convert, he indoctrinated each person with his (teacher's) own knowledge and faith.

A teacher teaches not only by word but by deed (actions and lifestyle); both must be pure and exemplary before the world. If our life is in contradiction to our words (teachings) then we dishonor God and give an unclear message to young Christians and the world — a Christian must not be double minded. James 1:8 says "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

The teacher's method of communication is his speech (words) and the agent of communication is his tongue. This is what James was really warning us about. We must constantly be on guard as to the words we employ and how and when we say them.

An adage says that the most dangerous let-

ter in the alphabet is the letter "S" because it turns words into swords. For the teacher with a captive audience — a following if you will — it is extremely easy to get caught up in espousing the truth according to the teacher instead of according to God. One may easily begin to wax eloquently and to make statements about things and people which are not only inappropriate but may be even unfounded, unnecessary, and often quite untrue.

James says we all offend (stumble-sin) in many ways but if a man never slips in his speech he has attained perfection in God and will be able to keep his entire body (entire sinful nature) under control.

Christians must constantly be on guard when we speak, for there is no sin easier to fall into than to speak that which should never be spoken. How many of you have spoken an untimely word and wished you had it back the second it left your mouth?

Through numerous examples James shows us that the tongue is little but powerful, it is destructive, it is undisciplined, it is deceitful, and it is devilish. While before God there is no

sin greater than any other, it is not so in the eyes of men. We often rationalize that it is "worse" to commit murder or to steal a large sum of money than to be a party to gossip and half-truths (whole lies). A murderer or thief commits the sin, and it is quite often finished. However a gossip continues to spread the lies which once released are like the seeds blown from a dandelion, they can never be recalled and the poison grows and spreads ever outward from the source.

Our words reveal the thoughts of our minds and the true nature of our hearts. If we speak with a double tongue, good in one breath and bad in the next, it reveals the lack of stability and commitment in our soul. Let us be as Jesus commanded in Matt. 5:37, "But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." Let us further be bound that once our word is given we are faithful to it.

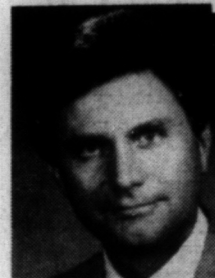
As committed Christians let us strive to be pure in heart, in mind, in body, in deed, and in word, for God will bless us for it.

Smith is pastor, Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian.

Boaz redeems Ruth, provides lesson in hope

By Lannie Wilbourn
Ruth 3:1-4:22

Everyone deserves a future! Naomi wanted Ruth to have a future in spite of their common tragic pasts. It was the older widow who took the initiative to move away from their past with the question, "... should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for?"



Wilbourn

All of us have past lives littered with the wounds of lost loves and painful memories. Ruth's willingness to trust Naomi's counsel to move from the past and into the future is genuine counsel to us also. We thrive on the anticipation of something good to come in the future.

Once our society was more seasonal in its outlook. In the harshness of a cold winter, the warm weather of spring was anticipated. In the heat of summer, the cool, crisp days of fall were delightful to consider. Now, in our climate controlled offices and homes, we seldom anticipate the future changing of seasons. In the last twenty-five years the changes brought by computers, space exploration, and medical technology have us wondering what is left to excite us about the future. That sense of hopelessness is pervasive in our society.

Everyone deserves a future! Naomi said it to Ruth. I'm saying it to you. God, through his Word, says it to our world today. In this biblical story we see God at work in the world then, giving Ruth and Naomi a greater future beyond their comprehension.

Naomi took the initiative required to deal with their difficulty. As the older and wiser believer, she knew there were solutions to their problems. Her question to Ruth is instructive to every person experiencing problems, "... Should I not try ...?" The laws and procedures to protect and help were available to Naomi and Ruth. Naomi's desire was for a family of quality relationships. The law provided that a near kinsman would take the responsibility for helping in such tragedy as these widows faced. It remains true today that acceptance of family responsibility is the beginning point of quality relationships. Self-respect and public reputation are gained when family responsibilities are handled well.

Upon Naomi's initiative and advice, Ruth went to the threshing floor where Boaz was working. The recent famine meant that a good harvest brought joy to Boaz. It also brought the danger of thieves so he spent the night at the threshing floor as a guard. Naomi was aware

of his schedule. Ruth made her desire to marry known by a custom of the day. It was an entirely honorable and moral act to lie at the feet of the kinsman-redeemer until he awoke. Boaz gave a positive reply by covering Ruth with his garment. She had hidden her identity earlier with a large shawl over her.

When the "proposal" was completed during the night, Ruth did not leave but stayed until early morning and left before daylight the shawl filled with barley. Boaz then arranged the legal procedures for a proper marriage. Ten elders were gathered inside the city gate to wait for the man nearest kin to Naomi. Boaz knew the man and his financial condition and used the information to advantage. Today we would call Boaz a "real horse trader" for the deal he struck. Naomi was forced by her difficulties to

sell her property. The nearest kinsman was always offered first option. Boaz made the offer with the condition of marrying Ruth to continue Elimelech's family line. This meant that Ruth's son would inherit the property. The unnamed relative was unwilling or unable to marry Ruth. Boaz anticipated this answer and immediately closed the deal by exchanging a sandal before the 10 witnesses. This exchange was the legal method of closing business deals.

Boaz and Ruth married soon. God blessed them with a son who became the grandfather of King David. Yes, Naomi and Ruth indeed had a future at a time when it appeared bleak. God worked through tragedy to triumph using the available message, methods, and morals provided in his word.

Wilbourn is pastor, Pinelake Church, Brandon.

Churches adopt expanded annuity

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Church Annuity Plan since those reported in the June 7 issue of the

Baptist Record: Lebanon; Petal-Harvey; Pike; Unity; Pontotoc; New Faith and Troy; and Walthall: Calvary.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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ACCREDITED



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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(To be continued)



19 Make Professions of Faith During Spiritual Emphasis Week

Sunday through Wednesday, June 24-27, all the staff and children from the six Baptist Children's Village campuses were on the India Nunnery Campus near Jackson for a time of Spiritual Emphasis and Revival.

Our guest evangelist was Rev. Phil Waldrep of Trinity, Alabama.

It takes a great deal of work from all the staff and cooperation from all the children for an endeavor of this size to be possible. The spirit of unity and cooperation that was visible can only be credited to each of you allowing God's Spirit to work in your hearts.

I want to express several "thank-yous" to all the Child Care Workers — **YOU ARE THE BEST!** And to our Supply Department for having all the supplies ready for our meals — **YOU DID A GREAT JOB!** And to Henry Glaze and Doug Duncan for working so hard to help me coordinate all the plans.

We also want to thank Van Winkle Baptist Church for allowing us to use their Family Life Center; And to Morrison Heights Baptist Church for hosting our evangelist as well as our staff and children in their Sunday night worship service, and for the generous offering they took to help us pay our Revival expenses.

And last but not least, we want to say "THANK YOU" to our many special guests that provided our special music, God truly used you to prepare our hearts.

Your fellow servant,
Jerry Jackson
Director of Public Relations

Just for the Record



GAs of First Church, Bruce, recently participated in the annual GA recognition service. Receiving badges for their work in Mission Adventure book, left to right, front row, are Dawn Henry, Tiffany Gray, Darla Bramlitt, Kathryn Mize, Emily Christ,

Brooke Adams, Yancy Cooper, Jeanine Ferguson; back row, Nanci Gray (teacher), Jody Ferguson, Janae Ferguson, Amber Hurst, Stephanie Pasquale, Brandi Ledbetter, Lylla Cooper, Deana Todd, and Jill Ferguson (teacher).



Crossgates Church, Brandon, held its GA recognition service Sunday evening, June 3. Pictured, front row (left to right) are Jennifer Lemly, Olivia McNulty, Kim Reed, Paula Herrington, Jennifer Mueller; second row, Lauren Hillman, Carlee Sanford, Kristy Griffin, Sarah Dennis, Rebecca Herrington, Ashley Sanford; third row, Valerie Wolfe, Lora Odom, Laura Simons, and Michelle Smith. GA leaders are Gail Compton, Faye Lucius, Betsy Castleberry, Rita Langston, Sherry McDill, and Kathie Sanford. Karen Rowell is director.



Freedom Church, Jones County, held a ground breaking service, May 23, for a new sanctuary.

Pictured, left to right, with shovels, are Harold Lott, trustee; Dewitt Strickland, chairman, building committee; J. T. Norton, chairman of deacons; Justin Walters, member, and Tracy Hipps, pastor.



GAs at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, were honored at a Mother-Daughter Tea Sunday, May 27. Grades 3-6 girls receiving badges are pictured with leaders. Front row: Anna Everitt, Joanna Booker, Tina Ignozitto, Danae Haught, Mindy Howell, Joyce Conlee. Second row: Levi Stephenson, Kirsten Devore, Laura Ingram, Leah Heath, Kathie Brill. Top row: Beth Booker, Kyla Conlee, Rosie Haught, Mary Elizabeth Pritchett.



Internal Auditors gift — The Central Mississippi Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors has presented the Mississippi College Leland Speed Library with an internal auditing starter library in appreciation for a series of seminars conducted by Clintonian Sandra Parks, assistant professor of accounting, for their organization. Pictured, from left, are Michael Chandler, Jackson; Marty Moore, Clinton; J. B. Howell, college librarian; Mrs. Parks; Annice Barton, Jackson; and Gerald Lee, Clinton, dean of the School of Business at Mississippi College. Chandler, Moore, and Barton all represent the Central Mississippi Chapter of IIA. (MC Photo)

New Hope Church, Gulfport, will have Vacation Bible School, July 16-23, with a parade on July 13 beginning at 9 a.m.

Approximately 20 guests attended the fourth annual meeting of the 50-Year Club held recently at Clarke College. This organization was initiated by the Clarke College Department of Alumni and Development to honor former Clarke students who graduated 50 years ago or previously. J. Hardee Kennedy, president, presided and certificates of membership were awarded to new members. Lunch was served.

Diane Gomillion of Union, entertained the group with several vocal presentations.

Providence Church, Lawrence County, will have its annual homecoming and spiritual awakening conference. Homecoming services will be held, July 15, with the Spiritual Awakening Conference, July 16-20.

Sunday School will begin at 10 a.m. with morning worship at 11. Dinner will be served on the grounds following morning service with afternoon services immediately following.

Mike Reid, Topeka Church, will conduct Sunday services. Wiley Reid, Friendship Church, Brookhaven, will be the evangelist Monday night; Bob Self, First Church, Brookhaven, Tuesday; Bendon Ginn, Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, Wednesday; Charles Dewitt, Mineral Springs Missionary Church, Taylorsville, Thursday; and the pastor, Daryl Oster will bring the Friday night message.

Music will be directed by Larry Cotton and Debbie Alexander will serve as pianist.

All night services will begin at 7 p.m. An evening meal and fellowship will begin at 6 p.m.

Vacation Bible School will be held at Carmel Church, Monticello, July 16-20, 8:30 a.m. There will be classes for ages 2 through 11 during the morning school with the youth, age 12 and over meeting each evening. Johnny Sykes, interim pastor.

Commission Road Church, Long Beach, will present The Great Day Singers of Central Church, Hixson, Tenn., July 12, at 7 p.m. The group is conducted by Donald C. McCary, minister of music and youth. The choir accompanist is Sylvia McCary, who is also a soloist for the group. There are 48 young people in the tour group. J. Greg Martin is pastor.

Sylvarena Church, a member of the Smith County Baptist Association, unanimously agreed on June 10 to donate its former church buildings and property to the Sylvarena Volunteer Fire Department for its use and occupancy.

In 1987, the church dedicated a new sanctuary/educational building on Highway 18 West in Sylvarena. This became the sixth building occupied by Sylvarena Church since its organization in 1867.

Alan Balliet is the pastor.

Baptist teachers denied Vietnam visas; other CSI work continues

HONG KONG (BP) — Five Southern Baptist teachers planning to work in Vietnam this summer have been denied visas to enter the country.

But other Southern Baptist medical and agricultural work continues in the country, according to Jack Shelby, Hong Kong-based administrator for Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization.

The visa denial marks the second time the Vietnamese government has refused visas for teachers with CSI.

Shelby speculated the visas were denied because Vietnam's government fears current unrest in other parts of the world. In recent weeks Vietnamese security officials have denied visas for Americans, except tourists in organized tour groups.

"Because of the current security sweep, foreign English teachers are unfortunately caught in the situation," Shelby said.

A Mennonite English teacher, Miriam Hershberger, was expelled from Vietnam in early June. The government charged her with inciting student unrest by using English-language newspapers in classes she taught at Hanoi Foreign Language College. She had been in Vietnam since last September and was about to finish the school year.

Despite the difficulties, Shelby still hopes to secure visas for two of the teachers — Frances Petersen and Hazel Garner, both professors at Mobile (Ala.) College. They taught in Vietnam last summer and hope to return to the University of Agriculture No. 3 of Bac Thai province in northern Vietnam.

But Shelby believes it's too late to reapply for summer visas for Vi Marie Taylor of Austin, Texas, and Glenn and Rose Davis of Frankfort, Ky.

"The timing just isn't right now," said Taylor, who also was denied a Vietnam visa last year when Vietnamese troops were pulled out of Cambodia. "The Lord is moving and when it's the appropriate time, doors will be opened."

Taylor had planned to design curriculum and teaching materials for an English language center in Hanoi. A retired CSI worker in China, she instead will move to Mongolia and work with secondary school English teachers there.

The Davises still hope to teach this fall at the University of Agriculture and Forestry in Ho Chi Minh City and help establish a master's degree program there. Previously, Davis was program manager for the Kentucky state education department. Mrs. Davis was a professor at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Both have spent the last two years teaching in China.

Securing visas and the availability of Southern Baptist teachers were Shelby's two main concerns in preparing for the English-teaching projects in Vietnam.

"Anything like this has a negative impact," he said of the visa problems. "People don't like to live with uncertainty. But we'll keep on trying."

Currently, CSI works in 10 agricultural, health, and social projects in Vietnam. The organization supplies basic medical equipment to small rural hospitals and clinics, assists in several agricultural efforts and provides literature and equipment for Vietnamese social workers.

CSI also is working with Grace Baptist Church and Vietnam's social welfare department to develop a vocational rehabilitation and education center for street children in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon).

CSI has preliminary plans to help Vietnamese doctors train community health nurses in anti-malaria and nutrition programs so they can in turn train families in rural areas.

The organization also hopes to send Clifford Randall, a water pollution control specialist, on a one-month assignment as consultant to the Tropical Medicine Center in Ho Chi Minh City later this year. He is a professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg.

Brazilian missionary killed

ALTAMIRA, Brazil — A Brazilian Baptist home missionary was killed and a Brazilian Baptist pastor seriously injured June 6 in a commuter airplane crash in Altamira, Brazil while returning home from a state executive board meeting. Missionary Elienai Bonfim was among 23 people who died when the TABA airliner crashed just before landing. Pastor Sidney Rodrigues suffered a broken back resulting in paralysis from the neck down. Another Brazilian Baptist was to have been on board but took a later flight, said Carol Hill, Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Belem.

Homecomings

Beulah Church (Newton): July 22; Rod Rochester, guest speaker; lunch will be served at noon; singing in the afternoon.

Mt. Gilead Church, Blue Springs: July 29; 10 a.m. with dinner on the grounds; Michi Lesley and the Mission Quartet, music; Johnny McCullough, pastor.

Mt. Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto (Lincoln): July 15-18; homecoming, Sunday, covered dish dinner on grounds, noon; afternoon singing, 1:45; no night services; Greg Potts, Brookhaven, guest speaker; Harrisville Quartet from Harrisville, singers; revival services, Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Greg Potts, evangelist; Tim and Beverly Drane, music; Gene Erwin, pastor.

Baptist Record

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901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

July 12, 1990

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205